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June 1991

From the Editor

Once again you have been waiting for your journal. Part of the problem was a lack of heat here in my French "mansion." Around the New Year the heating system broke down and was immediately fixed, but it appeared that this "fixing" was not exactly permanent because two weeks later it went on the blink again, and this time it took a week before somebody showed up! Even then it took another person to come and repair the furnace sufficiently to try and live in this place. By that time the temperature was below 50 degrees and it took this house about three weeks to regain a livable temperature again (2-foot-thick stone walls take a while to heat up!) So I got three weeks behind in typing the contents of the journal because I was huddling in front of an open fireplace most of the time. And then the letter with the last item for the journal was "delayed" by either the French PTT or the USPS for it took three weeks to get to Wisconsin.

This issue of the journal will contain several articles which may be of interest to you. For the next volume, beginning in September we already have lined up an extremely important article on the essays and proofs made in the Indies by the Topographic Service, and which are not found in the Proof Catalog.

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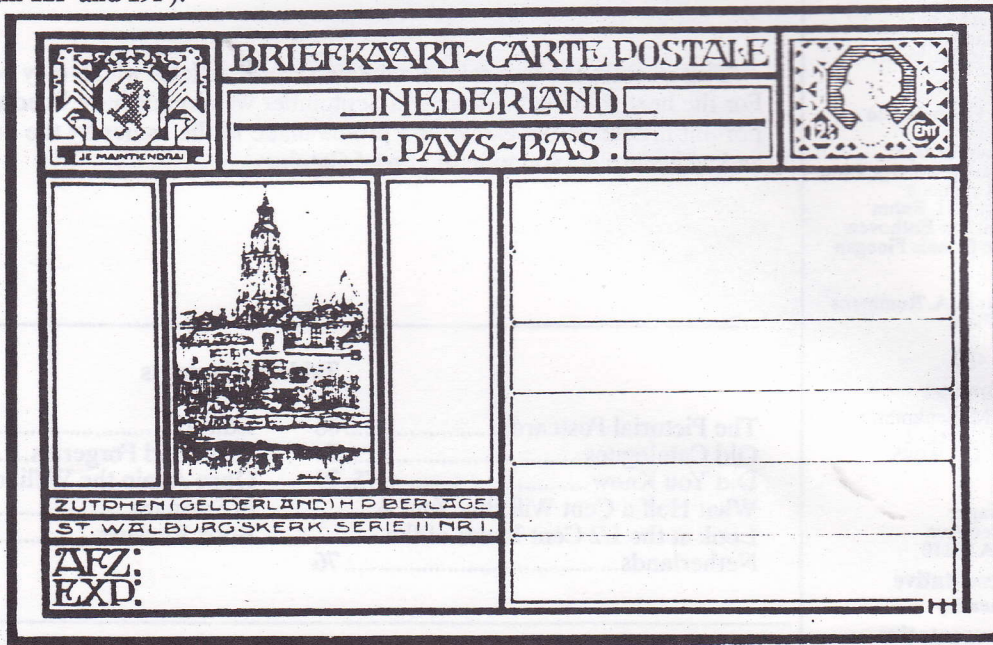
The Pictorial Postal Cards

by Laurence H. Rehm

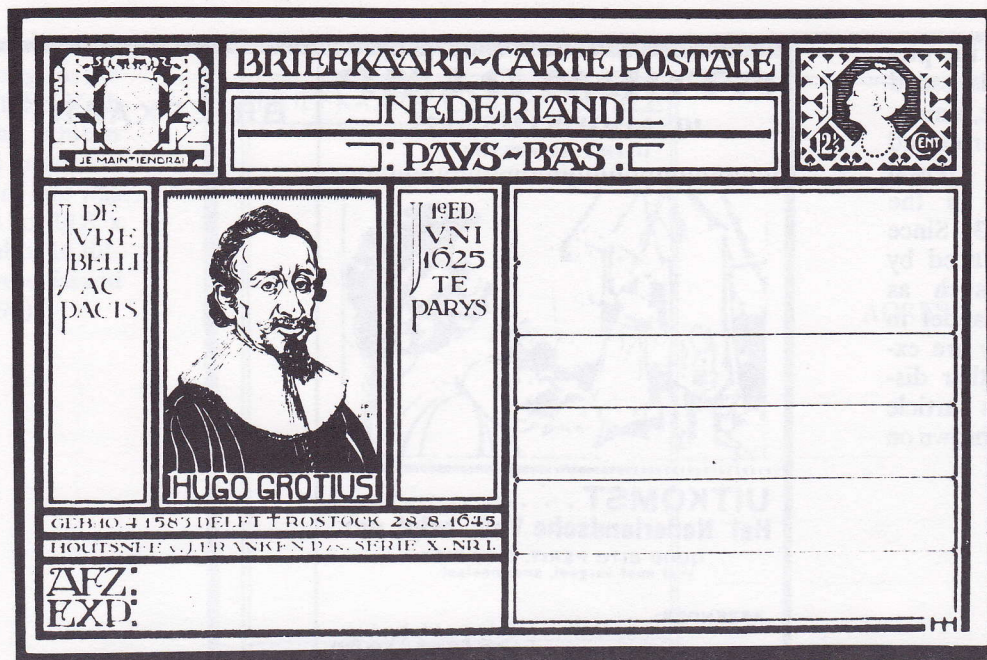
In the first part of this century, the Netherlands PTT issued a number of pictorial postal cards, many of them of outstanding quality. With the decline of general interest in postal stationery, few collectors are aware of these issues.



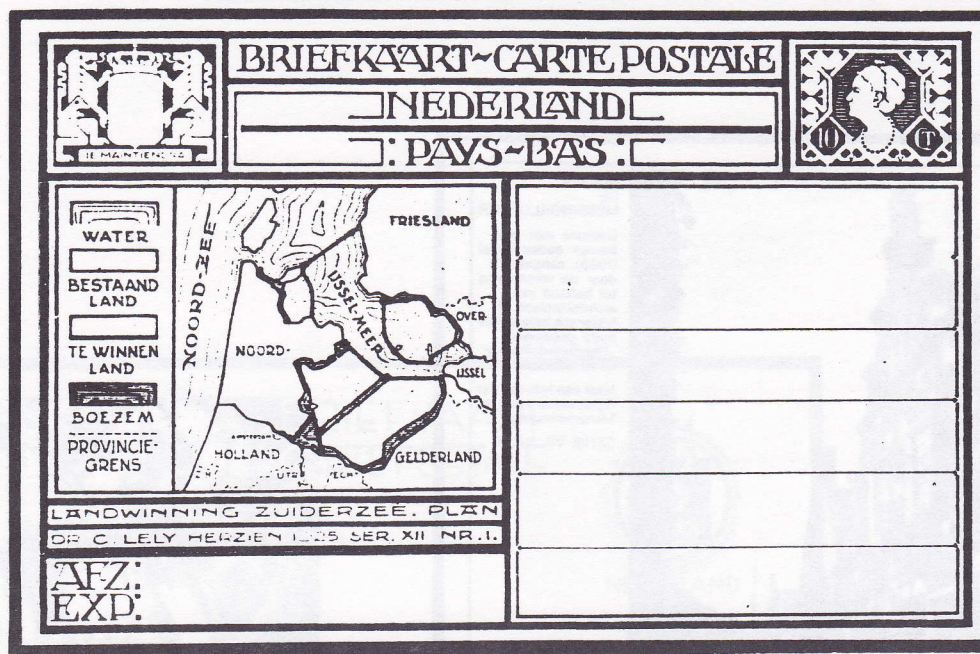
Actually, the first postal card to incorporate a pictorial subject was issued in 1898, upon the occasion of the inauguration of Queen Wilhelmina. This appeared in four varieties, each featuring the work of a different artist (Josef Israels, in the example shown) and was a cooperative venture of the PTT and the "Moed, Beleid en Trouw" Society. Card size was 14 x 9 cm. They were issued on both the current 2 1/2 ct violet on rose (the domestic rate) and the 5 ct blue on light blue postal cards (Geuzendam 12P and 19P).



The first full series of pictorial postal cards was issued in 1924, featuring fourteen views of Dutch towns. They appeared on the face of the card (the address side), leaving the reverse clear for the message. The heading displayed the Netherlands coat of arms, the identification in both Dutch and French, and a 12 1/2 ct Queen's portrait. All cards were red ink on buff (Geuzendam 173).



This was followed in 1925 with a similar card honoring Hugo Grotius (Hugo de Groot), Dutch statesman and jurist. This was issued in conjunction with the National Stamp Exhibition that year (Geuzendam 174).

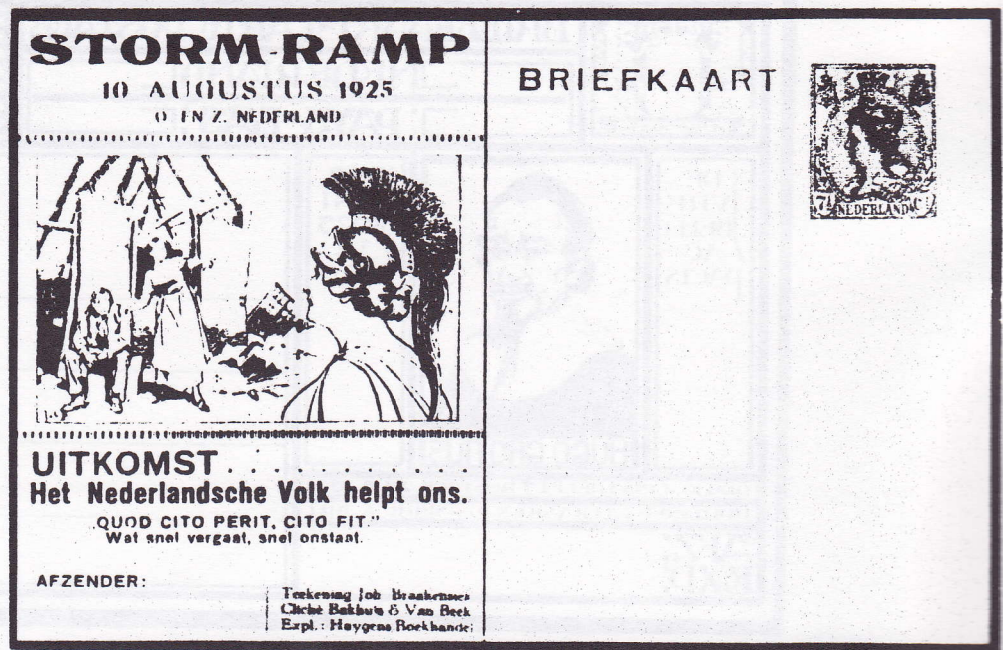


In 1926, two more pictorial postal cards were issued in the same format as the Hugo Grotius, red on buff. These featured Johan de Witt, and the Zuider Zee reclamation project (Geuzendam 178).



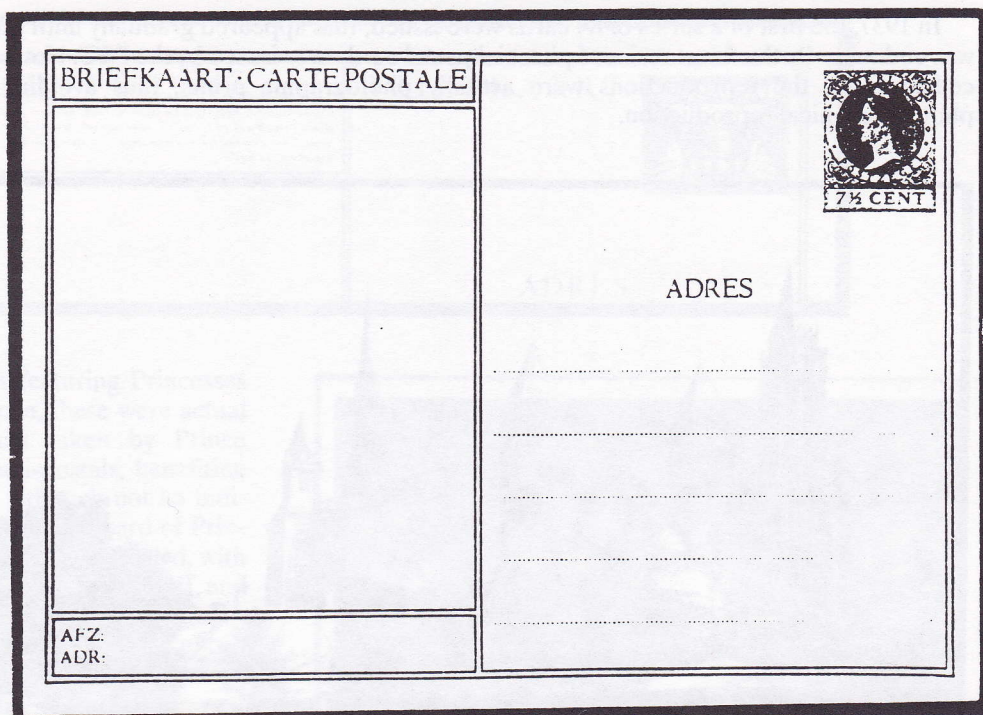
Due to a change in postal rates in 1926, the original series of 14 town cards and the de Groot card were reissued with 10 CENT overprinted in black on the 12 1/2 ct design (Geuzendam 179).

In addition to the pictorial postal cards issued by the Post Office, a number of privately produced semi-pictorial postal cards appeared in the period 1908-1923. Since these were produced by private firms (such as Huygen's Boekhandel in Den Haag), they are excluded from further discussion in this article (Geuzendam 74, brown on yellowish tan).



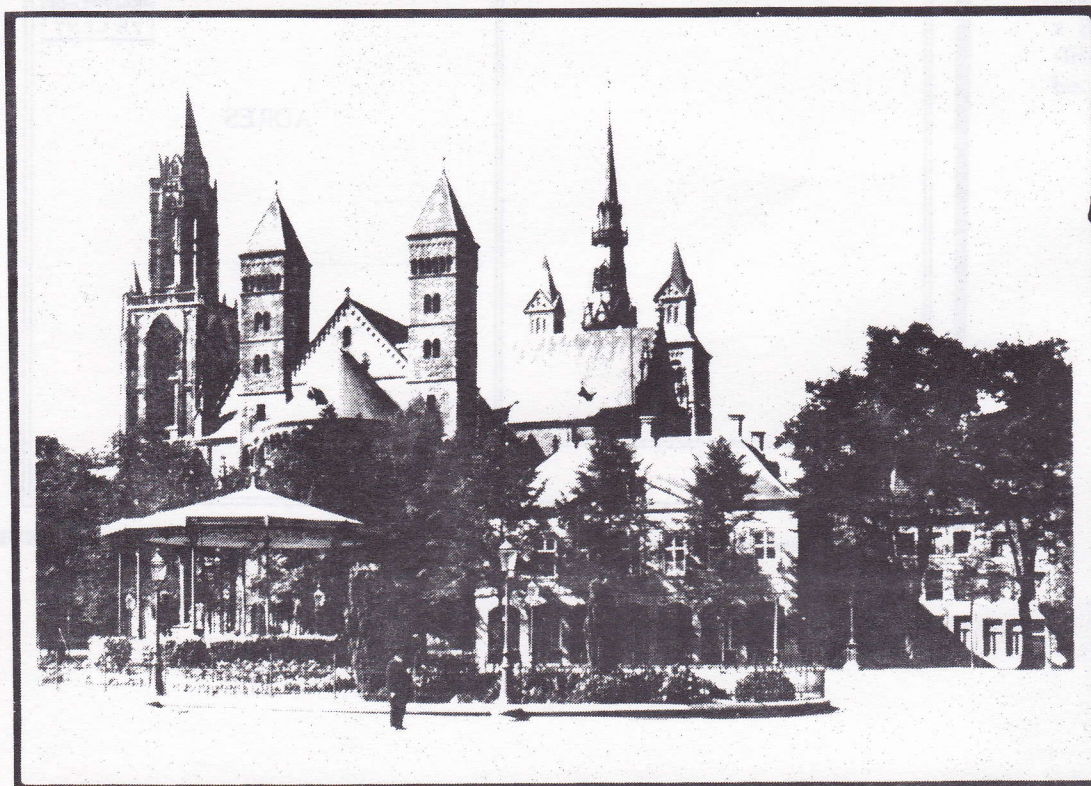
In 1929 the first of a new series of pictorial postal cards appeared, the last card in the series being issued in 1933. These were quite different from the previous cards as the picture was now printed in brown ink by the conventional gravure process, on the reverse side of the card. These featured views within various Dutch towns.

The address side carried the same design as the then current 7 1/2 ct Veth portrait of the Queen stamp, and was printed in red on buff. Card size was now increased to 14.8 x 10.5 cm. A total of 16 different cards were issued (Geuzendam 191).



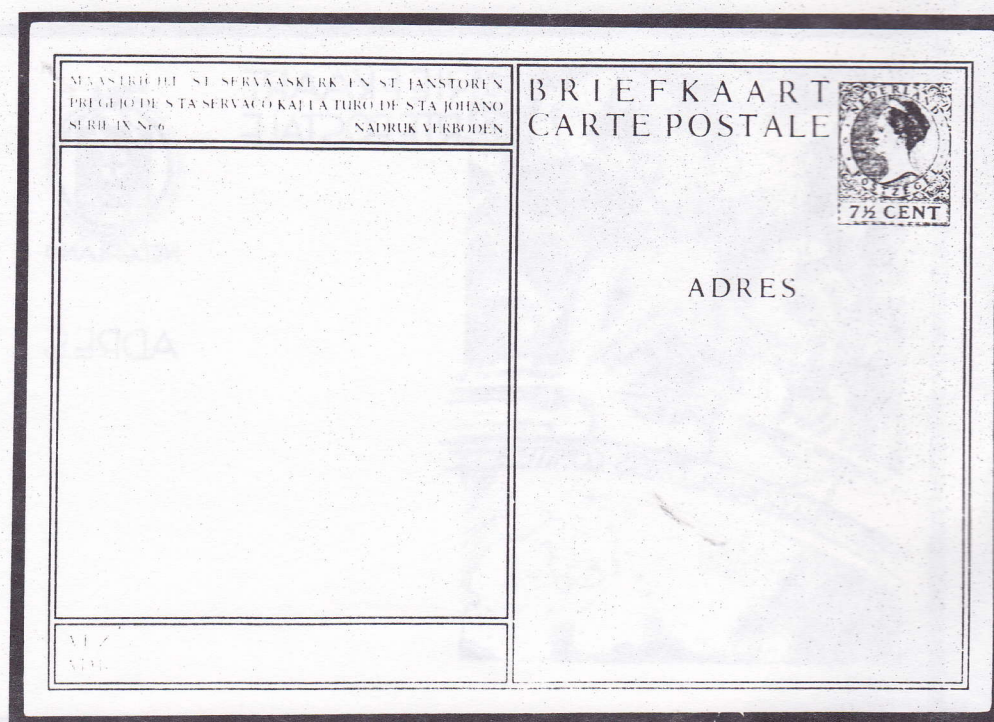
The National Crisis Committee was the beneficiary of a set of three semi-postal pictorial postal cards in 1933. The picture appeared on the address side, all portraying the ravages of the "economic storm" which did tremendous damage to the Netherlands. Red on buff, 3+2 ct, 5+3 ct, and 7 1/2 + 3 1/2 ct. (Geuzendam 202-4).

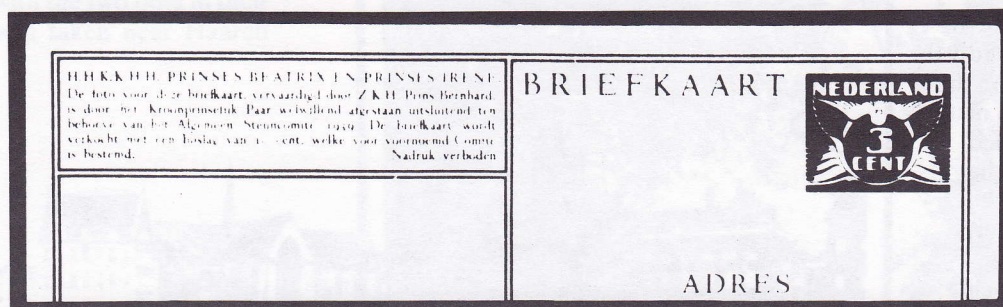
In 1937, the first of a series of 84 cards were issued, that appeared gradually until the outbreak of the war in 1940. This was undoubtedly the finest series of pictorial postal cards ever issued by the PTT. Not only were the scenes chosen with excellent taste, the reproductions were actually photographic prints, thus avoiding any loss in pictorial quality by photomechanical reproduction.



The first series of 24 cards featured views of buildings in various Dutch towns and cities, the second series of 24 featured windmills, the third series of 24, castles, and the final series of 12 were landscapes.

The photographs covered the entire reverse of each card, while the address side had a 68 x 71 mm box for the message. The descriptive heading was printed in Dutch and Esperanto. The cards still carried the 7 1/2 ct Veth Queen portrait stamp image, in red on buff (Geuzendam 206).





In 1940, a series of three cards featuring Princesses Beatrix and Irene were issued. Again, these were actual photographic prints, the portraits taken by Prince Bernhard. These were actually semi-postals, benefiting the Algemene Steuncomité 1939, although not so indicated on the stamp image. The 2 (+ 10) ct card of Princess Irene, was orange on buff, the 3 (+ 10) ct card, with both Princesses Beatrix and Irene, was green on buff, and the 7 1/2 (+ 7 1/2) ct card of Princess Beatrix on a hobby horse, was red on buff. The two lower values were Lebeau numerals, and the higher value the Veth portrait. Text in Dutch only (Geuzendam A214-216).



The fine series of pictorial postal cards, originally issued in the late 1930's, was reissued in 1946, but this time revalued to 5 c (in black), from the original 7 1/2 ct. These again, all excellent photographic prints, appeared in four groups: 24 outstanding buildings, 24 windmills, 24 castles, and 12 landscapes.



I was fortunate enough to acquire the complete set of 84 of the reissued cards through the kindness of the late Jan Dekker, and am illustrating one of each group in virtually full size. (Geuzendam 234).

They portray the Netherlands in a more peaceful time, showing uncrowded streets, few automobiles, and an occasional horse and cart.

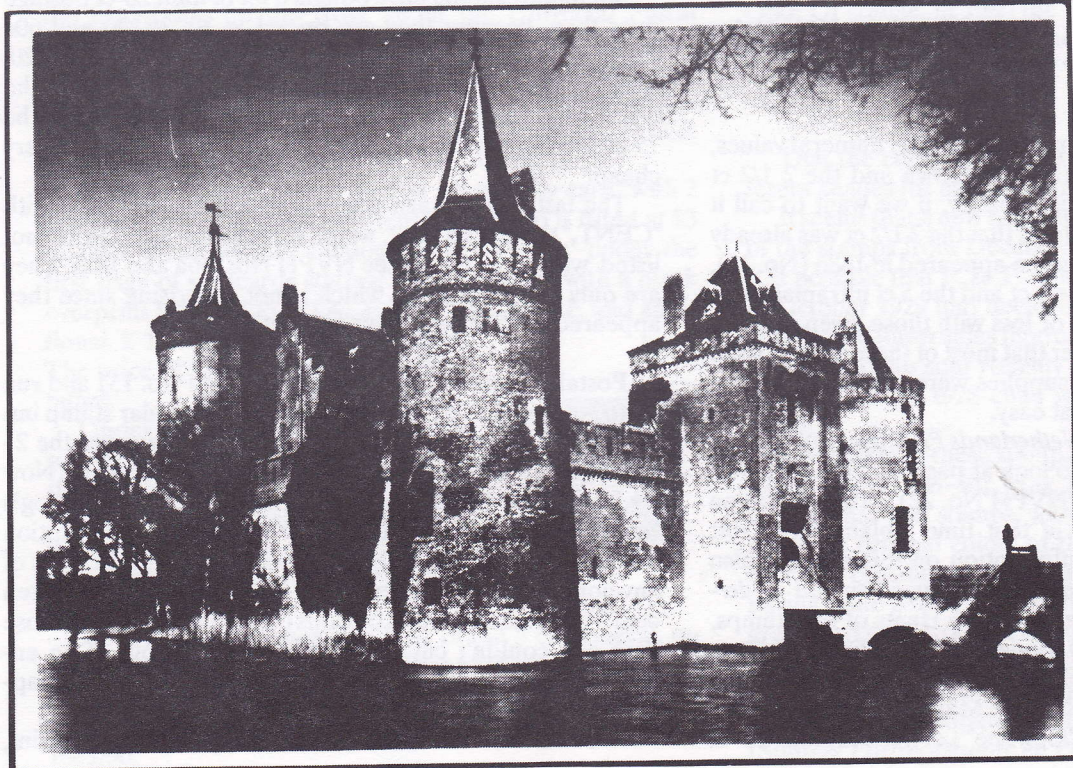


The photograph of the Royal Palace in Amsterdam, shows the Dam before the construction of the National Monument which now dominates the scene.



The windmill at Lexmond (Z.H.) provides living quarters for the miller and his family.

The rural scene with the two boys in their horse-drawn cart, was taken near Haaren (N.B.).



Finally, the fine castle and moat is in Muiden (N.H.).

Unfortunately, this reissue of 1946 was the last set of pictorial postal cards to be produced by the PTT. It is very possible that it was recognized that any new effort along these lines could not hope to match the uniformly high quality of the 1937-46 set.

All illustrations are from the author's collection. Full acknowledgment is given to the Geuzendam Postwaardestukken Catalogus.

OLD CATALOGUES - Scott 1894

by Paul E. van Reyen

The first part of this article on "Old Catalogues" appeared in Vol. 14, No. 1, pp. 18-20. Although there the title says "Scott 1899," it was really supposed to be "1894" as even the best author makes mistakes, and I am not even the best!

This part of the article will consider, what else, the Dutch Indies, which is the name for the country which Scott has used, I believe, up to the sixties or seventies. Anyhow, the Indies begin on page 189 and stop at the top of page 192. Not too much, but perhaps we can dig up something interesting, nevertheless.

At that time, 1894, the No. 1 could have been bought unused for \$1, used for 40c; in line with the totals issued of both stamps, the No. 2 went for a hefty (for those days) \$2 unused and 60c used. The perf given for No. 2 is "12."

In 1870 four stamps appeared, the 5, 10, 20 and 50 ct, under Nos. 3-6, the new portrait of William III. Four years later, in 1874, four supplementary values came out, Nos. 7-10, the 1, 15, 25 ct and the 2.50 Gld. Unused the 2.50 Gld went for \$2, the others ranged from 12 to 40c unused, and from 2 to 18c used, the last one the 2.50 Gld.

Two years later we get another 1 ct "(CENT 7 1/2 mm)" (No. 11), which fits in perfectly with what is found in the *Manual*, namely, "van Woerden says that about 1876 new plates were made for some of the values," among which was the 1 ct. No. 11a, 12 and 12a are all 2-ct stamps: the brown-red, the brown violet and the yellow "(error)." The brown violet is \$1 unused and 20c used; the yellow error is not priced.

No. 13 appeared in 1877, the 2 1/2 ct orange with prices that I consider to have been transposed because the unused lists for 10c and the used for 40c. Finally, under 1886 we get the 12 1/2 and the 30 ct. According to the *Manual* the 12 1/2 was issued in 1887 and the 30ct in 1888. A footnote states "Also perforated 12, 13 1/2, 12 (should probably be 12 1/2), and compound."

We then get a new fascimile, that for the numeral values, which begin in 1884 with the 2 ct brown and the 2 1/2 ct orange. Here is another discrepancy, if we want to call it that, because the *Manual* states that the 2 1/2 ct was already available in 1883. The 5 ct green appeared in 1886 (No. 18), the 1 ct in 1887 (No. 19), the 3 ct and the 5 ct ultramarine in 1889. These dates fit more or less with those given in other sources. One has to consider that most of these stamps were only issued after previous supplies were exhausted so that giving exact dates is not that easy.

Those of you who have *Netherlands Philately*, Vol. 12, No. 2, are urgently requested to look at page 42 where you will see a photo of a 5 ct blue (NVPH No. 22) with perforation 12 1/2 small holes, which at that time I blamed on "soft paper." For background information on this article I also turned to *Standaardwerk over de Postwaarden van Nederland en zijne Kolonien*, Part II, which treats of the stamps, postage dues, and postal stationery of the Indies, and there I found something extremely interesting. Judge for yourself: Under "Uitgifte Mei 1890." (Issue May 1890) we find listed a 3 ct perforation 12 1/2 ("Gewone" i.e. normal) and a 5 ct

blue pin perforation 12 1/2, which means, of course, small holes. This handbook goes on (my translation): "Early in 1892 the stamps of 5 cent blue appeared in another perforation."

Normal Perforation. 5 cent. Blue, perforated 12 1/2."

We don't have to go to the NVPH "Special Catalog" to find out that, of course, it is *not* special enough to list this variety, even though it was already known in 1895 (the date of the handbook).

The next fascimile shows us Queen Wilhelmina, and under 1892 we find three values of the set with her portrait: Nos 22-24, the 20, 25 and 50 ct, only listed unused. Nos. 25-27 are given under 1893 and are the 10 and 15 ct and the 2.50 Gld. This fits in perfectly with the handbook which lists the 30 ct in 1894 and the 12 1/2 ct without any date. By the way, the 2.50 Gld is \$2 unused.

The postage dues start with 50 (rather than 51, as should have been expected). Under 1874 we find the 5, 10 and 20 ct, of which the 5 ct unused lists at no less than \$10 (yes \$10.00). The others are both 75c unused while the used ones are 50 and 35c. In 1876 the 15 ct appeared (actually 1875). This one (No. 53) was unused also 75c and used 60c.

Under 1882 we get the next set of postage dues, which take an awful lot of numbers, since the 2 1/2 ct Type I gets No. 54, Type II 55, Type III 56 and Type IV 57, and so on. So we have the 2 1/2 ct, 5 ct, 40 ct and 75 ct in 1882, while the 10 ct, 15 ct and 20 ct come out in 1883, carrying Nos. 70-81. For 1886 we have the 50 ct (Nos. 82-85) and for 1888 finally the 30 ct, in only three types.

Somebody should have bought a lot of mint 20-ct postage dues then, because they are priced at 30, 30, 20 and 60c (nowadays, regardless of perforation, the 20 ct lists at fl. 220, fl 235, fl 200 and fl 425 for the four types). For all values the type IV stamps are a lot more expensive, but at that time the 75 ct was also quite valuable. Right now the 75 ct is very cheap!

The last two postage dues listed are the new type with "CENT," the 10 and 20 ct, which surprisingly enough are not listed with three types (see NVPH Nos. 16a and 18a). They are only priced unused, which is not surprising since they appeared in 1893 (actually the 10 ct in 1892).

Postal stationery, envelopes, begin with No. 151 and run on to No. 158. In 1887 we get two with the regular stamp imprint in the upper right corner, the 10 ct brown and the 25 ct purple. In 1879 the 20 ct also makes its appearance. (Now we know what 1878/79 means in the Geuzendam catalog!) In 1881 there is listed a 10 ct brown with an inscription across the stamp. Actually there were two different types of envelopes with this inscription, which means "Cover ten cent." The reason for this obvious overprint was that in those days one couldn't cut the imprinted stamp out of an envelope and use it as a regular stamp. Apparently this happened quite a lot so the overprint solved that problem.

A better solution was to use a totally different imprint,



which, according to Scott happened in 1885 with a 10 ct envelope (Geuzendam has 1883/88), followed in 1886 by the 12 1/2 ct grey. Scott then follows with a 15 (ct) overprint on the 25 ct envelope in 1888, and in the same year a 15-ct envelope in the new model (see figure). This makes more sense than the sequence in Geuzendam's catalog

where the 15 ct overprint follows the listing of three envelopes.

The postal cards begin with No. 201 and go up to No. 220. In 1874 we get a 5 ct violet on buff paper postcard on which the inscriptions on the back measure 108 mm. Nos. 202 and 203 are identical reply cards, the first one with the fold on the left side, the last with the fold on the right side. No. 204



အဘယ့်အတွက်လည်းကောင်း၊
(upside down)

အဘယ့်အတွက်လည်းကောင်း၊
(normal)

is the same card with the inscription on the back measuring 105 mm. Nos. 205 and 206 are the same 5 ct card and a 12 1/2 ct grey card, which are described as follows: "Same. Javanese inscriptions on reverse are inverted, the three circular accents being below instead of above." (See figure.) In 1879 two overprints show up, the 5 (ct) on 12 1/2 ct in black (No. 207) and ditto in grey-green (No. 208). Geuzendam (No. 4) only gives a bluish-green overprint.

In 1879 we get the first card without a border but with the inscription on the front about the Universal Postal Union (which the Indies had just joined) and a 7 1/2 ct imprinted head of the king, the color of the paper being buff (No. 209). No. 210 which appeared in 1885 was a 5 ct imprint in green on white paper, and No. 211 was the 7 1/2 ct also on white paper (Geuzendam Nos. 6 and 7).

No. 212 in Scott is described as a 5 ct reply card "with 2 1/2c adhesive pasted in lower left corner" and is listed at \$3 unused! Geuzendam's catalog has a "footnote" under the first page of postcards stating: "No. 2a occurs with a black overprint UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE and additional 2 1/2-ct stamps (not official)." The price of \$3 certainly seems exorbitant.

Under 1887 we then get all the postcards with the large numeral instead of the portrait of king William III. First are the 5 ct green and the 7 1/2 ct brown (Nos. 213 and 214), both on white paper. Prices only for unused. (See figure.)

No. 215 is the change into blue of the 5 ct numeral, on blue paper, while No. 216 is the change in color of the 7 1/2 ct into carmine on rose paper. According to Geuzendam only the first two came out in 1887, the color changes in 1889/90.



The last four numbers are concerned with reply paid cards, in the new colors only. Scott makes a distinction between No. 217, where both the card and the reply card are on blue paper, while No. 218 shows the reply card to be on white paper. The same for the 7 1/2 ct card where in the first listing (No. 219) both cards are on rose paper, while No. 220 the reply card is on white paper. These distinctions do not seem to have been listed in Geuzendam's catalog, although they occur in the earlier mentioned *Standaardwerk*.

We hope to finish this article on the 1894 Scott Catalog with an installment concerned with both Curaçao and Surinam.

Did You Know ...

That we escaped an avalanche of charity stamps of the Netherlands Indies after the first set for "Jeugdzorg" in 1930?

The first charity set of the Indies (NVPH Nos. 167-70; Scott Nos. B4-7) provided an amount of f1.21,617.34 for the Roman-Catholic organization "Jeugdzorg" at Buitenzorg, which provided care for children from birth until their 7th year, and also educated girls of all races in their domestic science school.

Mr. C.C. van Helsdingen, the leader of the Protestant Party in the "Volksraad" (People's Council), asked the government in the Council why this R-C organization was receiving the proceeds of the surcharge. The answer was that this organization had suggested the issue. Mr. van Helsdingen then asked the government whether it weren't possible to issue separate sets for each charitable organization so that the people could decide who got their money. The government then said that this was impossible because of the administrative problems this would entail. Thank God! Of course, in 1930 the Roman Catholics and Protestants in the Netherlands (and the Indies) were not exactly on speaking terms. (Source: *Postzegelkunde en Postwezen*. 1932)

That the child welfare stamps of 1929 occur in two different shades for each stamp?

It seems that a new printing was necessary during the sale of the stamps from December 10, 1929 to January 9, 1930. It is possible that P. & T. right after the stock market crash of October 1929 had decided to print fewer stamps for an anticipated lower sales figure. Remarkably enough, only the 12 1/2 ct stamp sold roughly 20,000 fewer stamps than the 12 1/2 ct of the 1928 child welfare set; all the others sold more!

The colors of these stamps are very simple (NVPH Nos. 225-28; Scott B37-40), gray, green, red and blue. I have a feeling that the stamps with the syncopated perforation show the original colors of the first printing. It may, however, be possible to distinguish between these shades by having quite a few to compare: the 1 1/2 ct is gray and light gray; the 5 ct is dark green and a lighter shade of green, with a grayish tone; the 6 ct is bright red and a dull rose-red; the 12 1/2 ct is dark blue and lighter blue. By the way, the sales figures of the syncopated perf stamps are only approximate. (Source: *Postzegelkunde en Postwezen*, 1932)

What Half A Cent Will Buy You: A Look at the 1/2 Cent Issues of the Netherlands

by John W. Van Rysdam

In these days when even 29 cents only buys you a domestic letter stamp it will do us good to look back awhile and see what a 1/2 cent stamp bought us more than one hundred years ago, and up to the thirties.

First let me explain to the younger generation what half a cent was. At that time the Dutch guilder was worth about 40 dollar cents, which makes the Dutch half cent about 2/10th of a dollar cent. Not much to do with, we might say now, but in those days it was still a treasure for us kids raised before and during the depression when you earned 1/2 cent for doing chores and running errands for the neighbors. It was a tiny copper coin (contrary to the big British 'buttons') about the size of an American dime. It was a well-earned treasure which we rightaway traded at the penny candy store for our favorite goodies. Your mother used to exchange two half cents for a penny so that you could put one on each offering plate on Sunday.

We have come a long way from those years; in many countries a cent or a penny doesn't exist anymore. In the Netherlands, for example, the prices get rounded off, up or down, to the next 5 or 10 cents, although a price tag at the Albert Heyn supermarket may read 97 cents.

Enough said about the 1/2 cent, let's take a look at what it bought the user of the postal services at that time. In the Netherlands the half-cent stamps were a part of the so-called printed matter issues, stamps mainly issued to pay the postage for printed matter and newspapers, either weeklies or dailies.

By the law of July 22, 1870, new rates for newspapers were established and starting January 1, 1871, the rate was changed to 1/2 cent per copy for daily or weekly papers under 25 grams; over this weight the rate became 1 cent.

This new rate also asked for appropriate stamps and the first Dutch 'newspaper' stamp was issued, being part of the 1869-1871 printed matter set. The design was by J. Vürtheim, Sr., and they were printed by Joh. Enschedé & Sons, showing the Dutch coat-of-arms with a wreath of laurel and oak leaves around it (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1

The Dutch Special Catalog gives us the following details:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| NVPH No. 13A | Issued 1872, line perf 14, small holes. Contrary to the rest of this issue, the 1/2 cent was printed on thin paper, which is considered an abnormality and lists for fl 6000 mint and fl 2000 used! |
| NVPH No. 13C | Issued 1870-1875, comb perf 13 1/4 small holes. 42 million were issued, again on thin paper. |
| NVPH No. 13D | Issued 1875-1876, comb perf 13 1/4 large holes. In a printing of 20,032,700. |

NVPH No. 13v

This is an imperforate stamp which is only accepted with large borders (or in a pair), so that one is sure this is not a regular stamp of which the perforation has been cut off.

The date of demonetization of this 1/2 cent stamp was October 31, 1879. As we said before, the only single use of this stamp was for newspapers; all other usages were in combinations with other stamps to make up for higher rates.

Being of limited use at the time, wrappers with this stamp are now not easy to find and they bring good prices.

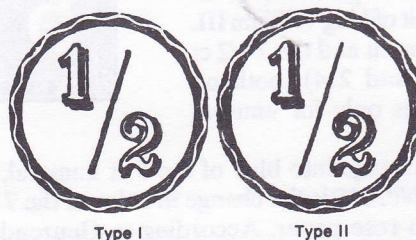
The second 1/2 cent stamp issued by the Netherlands was part of the 1876-1894 numeral type printed matter series. They served to replace the 1869 coat-of-arms set.

This 1/2 cent stamp (Fig. 2) was pink and shows the following variations:



Fig. 2

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| NVPH No. 30a
NVPH No. 30AI | Brownish red, issued in 1894. Pink, type I, with line perf 14 large holes, issued in 1877. This perforation is very rare and only known to have been issued in some towns. |
| NVPH No. 30BI | Pink, type I, with comb perf 13 1/2:13 1/4 large holes. |
| NVPH No. 30BII
NVPH No. 30CI | Pink, type II, same perf as above. Pink, type I, with comb perforation 12 1/2:12 large holes (to be subdivided into 12 1/2:12b and c). |
| NVPH No. 30CII
NVPH No. 30DI | Pink, type II, same perf(s) as above. Pink, type I, with comb perf 11 1/2:12 large holes (the first vertical row of the 12 1/2:12b perf) |
| NVPH No. 30DII
NVPH No. 30EI | Pink, type II, same perf as above. Pink, type I, with comb perf 12 1/2 small holes |
| NVPH No. 30EII
NVPH No. 30FI | Pink, type II, same perf as above. Pink, type I, with comb perf 12 1/2 large holes. |
| NVPH No. 30FII
NVPH No. 30aFII | Pink, type II, same perf as above. Brownish red, type II, same perf as above. |



Type I

Type II

As can be seen to the left, type I shows a shorter division bar than type II; also the bottom of the bar in type I is somewhat ragged.

De Heeren KÖHLER & Co.,

s. s. t. t.

to

ROTTERDAM.



Fig. 3

In 1894 a new issue of the numeral stamps was printed, showing new, brighter colors:

NVPH No. 30b Bright red, with comb perf 12 1/2 large holes.

Figure 3 shows this stamp used to pay the newspaper rate of 1/2 cent on a wrapper from Groningen to Rotterdam. Figure 4 shows the same stamp in combination with a 1-cent stamp which was needed for a newspaper up to 150 grams. This postage was needed to comply with the rate change as per April 1, 1892, by which the category was changed to just "nieuwsbladen" (news-papers) for which was charged 1/2 cent up to 40 grams, 1 cent for 40 to 150 grams and another 1/2 cent for every additional 50 grams up to 3 kilograms.

The next rate change did not take place until October 1, 1908, at which time it was changed to 1/2 cent up to 55 grams, 1 cent from 55 to 150 grams and an additional 1/2 cent for every 50 grams up to 3 kilograms.

The next 1/2

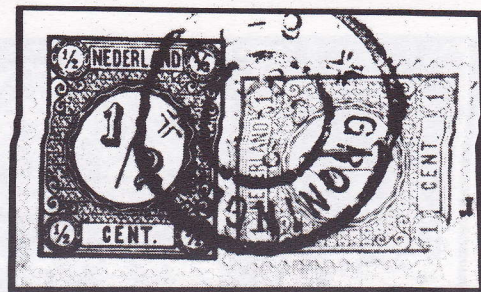


Fig. 4



Fig. 5

cent stamp was not issued until 1899, when it became part of the 1899-1913

numeral type issue, designed by J. Vürtheim, Jr., and again printed by Joh. Enschedé & Sons. The NVPH number is 50, the color lilac and the perforation comb 12 1/2. The stamp did not have a watermark. Figure 5 shows a copy of this stamp of which

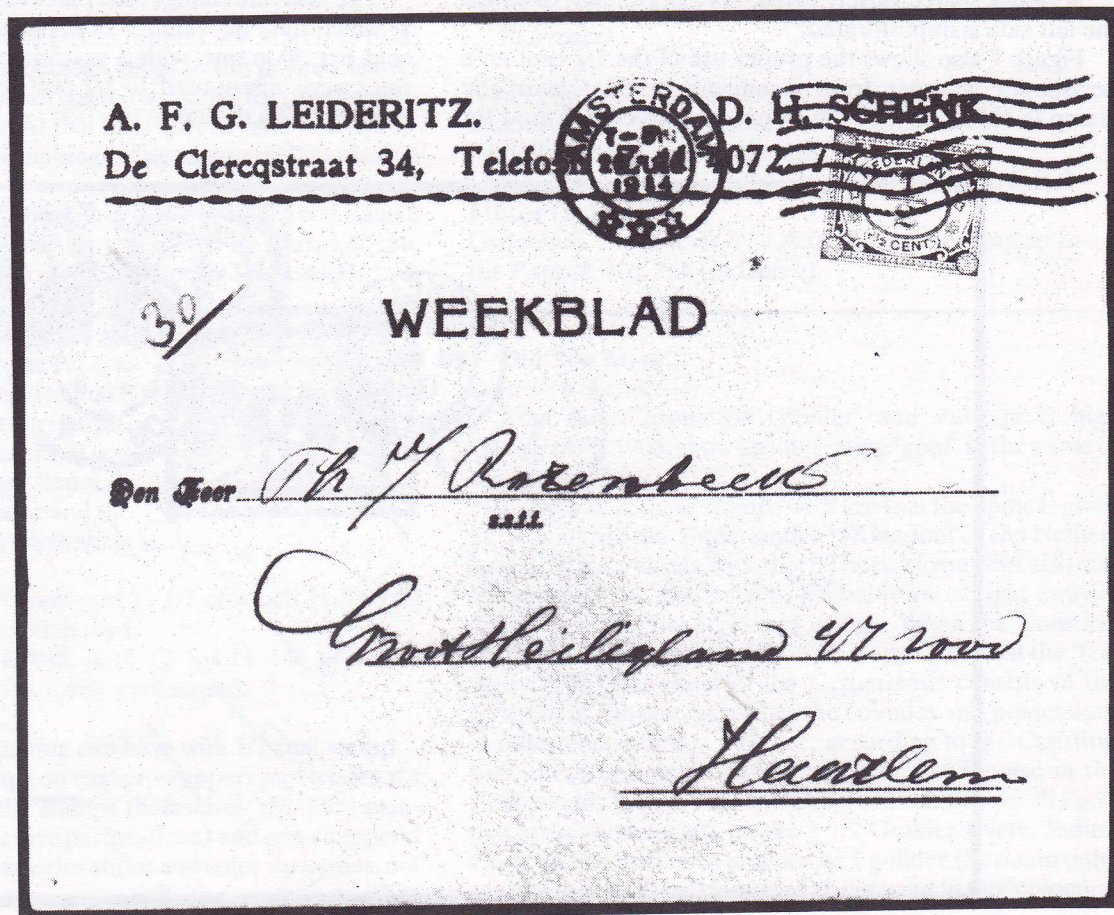


Fig. 6



Fig. 7 Note the Groningen precancel.

1,651,676,750 were sold. Figure 6 shows the proper use of this stamp on a "Weekblad" (weekly) envelope, used to carry a light-weight weekly newspaper.

A rather scarce variety exists, NVPH No. 50v, of which the left side is imperforated.

Figure 7 also shows the proper use of the 1/2 cent on a newspaper wrapper from Groningen to Haarlem. The stamp is obliterated by the Groningen precancel used for

printed matter. Figures 8 and 9 show some combination usages of the 1/2 cent stamp with other stamps to make up a different rate.

The next rate change took place as per November 1, 1919, at which time the rate for newspapers was changed to 1/2 cent per 50 grams, with a maximum of 2 kilograms. Bulk rates were 'discounted' to 1/2 cent per 55 grams which was not much of a discount.



Fig. 8 A pair of 1/2 cent stamps to make up the special postcard rate for Belgium of 1 cent. It took the mailtrain from Rotterdam to Vlissingen, transferred at Roosendaal, and on to Brussels and Laeken.

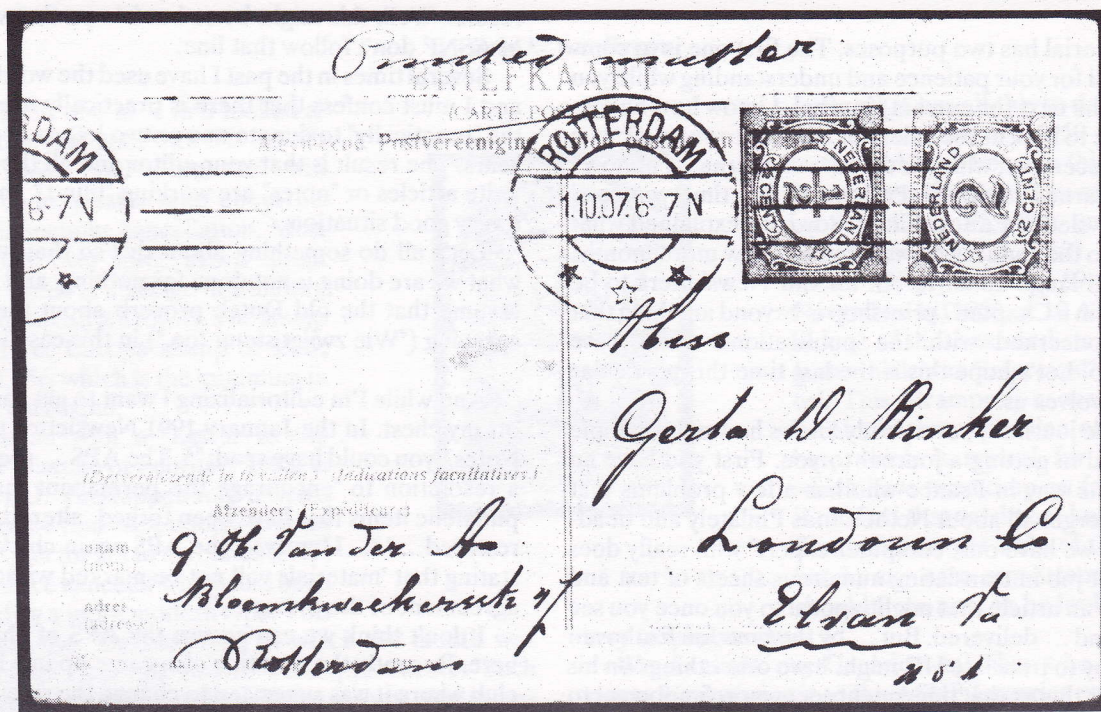


Fig. 9 The 1/2 cent stamp in combination with the 2 cent to make up the Oct. 1, 1907, rate for picture postcards without writing, to the U.S.A. The cancel is V-217, type 1, with 6 lines, used on the KRAG cancel machines.

The special newspaper rates lasted until March 1, 1921, at which time the rate became equal to the printed matter rates of that period, which started at 2 cents for printed matter for every 50 grams. At that time special rates became effective for certain bulk mailings of newspapers ("Frankering bij Abonnement").

Nevertheless, in 1926 another 1/2 cent stamp was issued, this time the "Flying dove" type designed by Chris Lebeau, printed in grey on watermarked paper by Joh. Enschedé & Sons (Fig. 10).

As at that time not a single 1/2 cent rate existed anymore, the stamp could only be used to make up higher rates in pairs or in combination with other stamps. It was the last regular postage stamp issued in the 1/2 cent value and the catalog gives us the following varieties:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| NVPH No. 169A | Comb perf 12 1/2 of which 21,209,000 were issued. |
| NVPH No. 169B | Comb perf 12 3/4:13 1/2 of which 2,810,400 were issued. |



Fig. 10

So you see what fun one can have with 1/2 cent stamp.

Although the stamps on earlier wrappers and letters are rather hard to find, the stamps themselves are quite common (except for some rare perforations) and one can spend hours just studying the perforations and color variations, not to forget the cancellations, especially the precancels. They might even make a nice topical or historical collection well worth exhibiting.

References

- NVPH Special Catalog, 1990.
- Domestic and International Postal Rates of the Netherlands 1850-1990 by W.S. da Costa (in Dutch)
- Catalog of Stamps on Letters by H. Buitenkamp and E. Müller (in Dutch)
- Groningen Precancels by J.A.G.M. van Roosmalen in the *Postzak*, No. 164 (in Dutch)

Did You Know...

That the "Coronation Guilder" and subsequent high values, 1899- 1905, show an interesting "goof" in the name of the country?

If we look at these stamps we'll see that the name is given as "Koninkrijk der Nederlanden" (Kingdom of the Netherlands). What's wrong with that? Those of you who also collect coins of the Netherlands probably know right away in which direction the argument will go. When the Constitution of 1848 was amended in 1887, it appeared that the "territory of the Kingdom of the Netherlands consists of the territory in Europe, as well as the colonies and possessions in other continents" Hence, according to the Constitution, these stamps should have been valid for use in the Netherlands Indies, Surinam and Curacao. But we all know that special overprints on the 2 1/2 Guilder (Neth. Indies, Curacao and Surinam) and on the 1 guilder (Surinam only) were issued, so these stamps were *not* valid in the "colonies."

Continued on page 80

Editorial

This editorial has two purposes. The first one is to commend you all for your patience and understanding while you waited for the next (or current) journal. I know how annoying it can be to look at the calendar and say to yourself: It is long past December; where is that d...ed journal of us now? (I meant "darned" though.) Perhaps by the time you read this the Newsletter Editor will already have explained what happened to the January Newsletter. In a few more months we might all laugh about it, but for our Newsletters to be "locked" up in a Chapter 7 printshop is beyond anything that anybody concerned with the publications could have dreamed up. Let's hope this is the last time this particular problem involves us.

As for the journal — everybody knows how many people are involved in getting a journal to you. First you have an editor all the way in France who has a few problems that make him forget all about Netherlands Philately and deadlines. Then we have our "computer expert" who really does an excellent job in translating numerous sheets of text and photos into an article that might appeal to you once you see it printed and ... delivered. But ... by the time Jan Enthoven gets his copy to translate HE might have other things on his mind, things that at that time might seem more important to him. Now the to-be-printed material goes to a printer, in another state, mind you, because the printer has to be near by the third person who is involved, our distribution expert. If the printer doesn't take too long, Dennis Finegan still has to go there, and pick up the piles of finished journals and cart them home. But what if Dennis is ill, and cannot go immediately after he hears that the job is done? Or has some other thing occupying him at that particular time, or, when the journal is late (too often) he might have made plans to go on vacation, not counting on a late journal.

As you can see, sometimes I wonder how you do get your journals, let alone on time. With three people involved it takes only a small problem to screw up the works. Perhaps the "bugs" may be ironed out after a while.

The second purpose of this editorial is to "sound off." If you page through the last few journals you will constantly see the same names as authors. First is of course Dr. Frans Rummens who not only provides us with all (or almost all) the book reviews and other philatelic news, but also gets in regularly with an article on some unknown aspect of our field. And all that while he is busy in the meantime with his own publication, the Newsletter. Second, it is lately a rare journal which does not have an article by Mr. M. Hardjasudarma on some aspect of Netherlands Indies or Indonesian postal history. Mr. W. van Zandhoven shows up regularly too, and perhaps here I should mention Mr. Van Rysdam who not only writes himself, but, and this is very important too, directs our attention to important articles that have appeared in the past and which might be well worth republishing (or translating and republishing).

When some article has appeared with a question at the end such as: Any member who might have the discussed "whatever," please contact your editor so he can share this with the membership, only one or two people answer, and always the same ones. This is not the way to run a stamp society. It is a well-known fact all over the philatelic world that in any society one or two (perhaps a few more) do all

the work, while the membership sits back and enjoys the results. Well, this might be so but I hope that we members of ASNP don't follow that line.

Several times in the past I have used the word "feedback," and I must confess that there is practically none, and I use the "practically" to denote one or two letters in two or three years. The result is that your editor and all the people who write articles or "notes" are working "blind," and that is not a very good situation.

Let's all do something about this so that we know that what we are doing is not done for nothing, and please don't assume that the old Dutch proverb about the silent ones agreeing ("Wie zwijgt stemt toe.") in this case is enough.

And while I'm editorializing I want to get something else off my chest. In the January 1991 Newsletter under "Short Notes," you could have read: "5. The APS ... recently passed a resolution to 'encourage the permanent marking of all philatelic items that have been forged, altered, repaired or restored....' ... However, the APS again chickened out by stating that 'materials will not be marked without the prior agreement of the owner....'"

I don't think we can accuse the APS of chickening out here. Recently the question also came up in a Dutch stamp club where it was suggested to change the rules in regard to circuit books. Any fake etc. found in any circuit book offered to the club would be removed, marked indelibly and added to the club's reference collection. This would mean that anybody who offered a circuit book for sale through the club knew beforehand that he/she would lose the forgery etc.

At the meeting where this change in the rules was discussed it became clear immediately that the membership had a very simple "solution," namely, they would not send their circuit books to the club, but try to peddle their stamps elsewhere. So, here too, the materials would not be marked without the prior agreement of the owner. It is, as with the APS, a sad commentary on the honesty of the "average" collector.

Did You Know ... (continued)

To get back to you, coin collectors, the silver 1 and 2 1/2 guilder pieces and the gold 5 and 10 guilder pieces all carried the "Koninkrijk der Nederlanden" inscription (earlier pieces may have had "Koningrijk") and they were, indeed, used in the Netherlands and the "colonies" too. Only the pieces of 1/2, 1, 2 1/2, 5, 10 and 25 cent were different for each area. (I am not too sure about the 1/2 guilder piece, but perhaps a reader can enlighten us; I do know they were used in the Indies, but one never saw them in the Netherlands.) (Source: *Postzegelkunde en Postwezen*. 1932)

That there is a discrepancy between the date the FDC catalog gives for the 10 cent Queen Wilhelmina (NVPH No. 274), namely October 15, 1940, and the date the first printing of this stamp was done, which is November 15, 1940, according to the table published in the article on the 1940-1941 local Batavia printings in the previous issue of this journal? Has any member a dated stamp which can clear this up?

FAKES and FORGERIES

by Paul E. van Reyen

Those of you who have first looked at the illustration that goes with this installment of "Fakes and Forgeries" will probably wonder what is "fake" about this seemingly innocuous cancellation. Most of you won't ever have heard about Stramproij which is a village in Limburg (I don't want to call it a town). The stamp itself is a 12 ct Europa stamp of 1959, worth all of 25c, which is the minimum in the NVPH catalogue.

It all began with a "Letter to the Editor" in *Philatelie* of February 1988, in which Mr. H.J. Verstappen told a weird story. It seemed that once upon a time an unnamed collector got in his hands an official post office canceler which had been superseded by a more modern type. This canceler was the "longbar" type in which the month was given by Roman numerals. As Mr. Verstappen wrote: "Such an old canceler is a wonderful toy." Mint stamps, that is, unused stamps without gum could in an instant be "translated" into beautiful "used" copies. And the collector did so, but unfortunately he didn't stop there. After all, once you can cancel old stamps, why not make "first day covers" too.

And so he did, all for fun, because there is no indication that he ever got rid of these "gems." But then, what happened. Our collector died and his heirs got a dealer to help them in getting rid of the accumulation. So another collector after a while bought the collection, and this man discovered various covers with stamps which were canceled by the Stramproij (Limb.) device and he immediately recognized the very dubious nature of the cancellation. But, lo and behold, the dealer who had helped in the transaction received for his help a box full of these fake "first day covers," among others.

In June 1986 in a Dutch auction there was a lot containing a first day cover with NVPH No. 443, the 7 1/2 ct "liberation stamp." The stamp was canceled, where do you think, in Stramproij (Limb.), and the cover was also marked in the top left corner with: "Bevrijdings-zegel. Eerste dag van uitgifte 15-7-1945." The estimated value was no less than 500 guilders!

Mr. Verstappen himself had a "first day cover" with a statute stamp (NVPH No. 835) of 15 ct, also canceled in Stramproij, and in the left top corner a notice: "10 jaar Statuut v.h. Koninkrijk / Eerste dag van uitgifte / 15-12-1964" He satisfied himself that the typewriter used in both cases was identical. Later on, at a show for the Day of the Stamp, he saw another "first day cover," this one with NVPH No. 404, the gold overprint 10 ct on 2 1/2 ct yellow. The dealer wanted 175 guilders for this "rarity," and was highly indignant when he was told about the fraudulent use of the Stramproij canceler.



So what has all this to do with the 12 ct Europa stamp of 1959 which is illustrated here? For one thing, the date is not a first-day date. The set was issued on September 19, 1959, and was valid until December 31, 1960. The cancel shows clearly 18. XI. 59. 10, that is November 18, 1959, at 10 AM. This may be one of those unused stamps without gum which was "improved" by the cancel. This Stramproij cancel shows two breaks in the upper line of the central bar, which is typical for the cancels which have turned up on fake FDCs. It is too bad that we do not know when the first collector got hold of the canceler, but in any case any Stramproij cancel should from now on be looked at with a

very suspicious eye.

We do thank our Canadian member who spotted this stamp for donating it to the ASNP forgeries collection.

Our next horror story also comes from the pages of *Philatelie*, the issue of March 1988. The head of the "Bond" certification service warns us about the possibility that rare cancels could be applied to stamps on a cover by means of a photo-copying machine. These machines get more and more sophisticated so that it is only a question of time before we might find a very rare cancel in color on an old cover, wholly faked, of course.

If someone offers you a cover with an unusual and rare cancel on the stamp(s), have the cover checked before you shell out a lot of money. Even if the cover is legitimate, you haven't lost. A really rare and unusual cover is worth more with a certificate, if you are ready to sell!

In *Philatelie* of May 1990 we find a short item with the head "First faked coil stamps of the Netherlands discovered." Of course, some coil stamps have proven to be very elusive, and hence command a good price. No doubt some "smart" people have taken advantage of this to produce "coil stamps," each used, but with a fairly good number on the back. It concerns NVPH Nos. 461, 464, 465 and 468, the Van Krimpen numerals of 2, 4, 5 and 8 cents, which were received by the "Bond" for expertization. These "varieties," by the way, did not appear in the catalogue at all, so the owners or buyers were smart to send them for expertizing. To prevent fakers from getting any help at all, the item did not list all the various indications which proved that these were forgeries.

Once Again the William III Issue of Surinam

In Netherlands Philately, Volume 13. No. 1, Dr. Frans Rummens authored an exhaustive article about these early Surinam stamps, in which for the first time the "history sheets" of the postal services were utilized. As you all know, the "history sheets" list all the printings (with other particulars) of each stamp of an issue.

In his "Concluding remarks" Dr. Rummens stated "Furthermore, the discrepancies noted in Table 2 need to be accounted for." And that is what this short note will attempt to do.

Firstly, Table 2 gives us the number of stamps "issued" (*oplagen*) as mentioned in the NVPH catalogue; also the number of stamps printed by Enschedé and the number of each stamp "approved." Obviously, this last number is smaller than the number printed. Let us first, however, clear up a grievous mistake in the NVPH catalogue where the figures for the ultramarine 25 ct and the greenish blue 25 ct have been switched, probably since the first NVPH catalogue already (my earliest one is 1956, and it has the mistake already). So we should change these figures to 146,000 for the ultramarine and 194,224 for the greenish blue 25 ct stamps. By the way, both the *Manual* and the Expanded Catalogue (Korteweg) of 1935-36 have it right.

Let's also do away with the exceedingly confusing word "oplagen" which surely is nothing of the sort. "Oplagen" would be something divisible by 100 for the lower values (sheets of 100) and by 25 for the two guilder values (sheets of 25). What the NVPH means is "quantity sold."

Table 2 also shows us that the values up to and including the 10 cent were indeed sold in multiples of 100, which I think could be explained by stating that up to that value "speculators" could indeed go to the post office and buy whole sheets, especially of the ones which were later on replaced by the numeral values. After all, even a whole sheet of 10-ct stamps is only 10 guilders, an amount that any well-heeled speculator could easily afford.

Dr. Rummens also especially mentions the 12 1/2 ct and suspects an error of 100,000, because the number sold is only 140,266 while the number approved is 246,300. He also states that for the 20, 30, 40, 50 ct and 1 guilder "only a small portion of the total production was ever issued" (that is: sold). After he mentions the later overprints (NVPH Nos. 21, 29-33 and 37-40) he expects "that the 'numbers overprinted' would be included in 'numbers issued.' Perhaps then this assumption is wrong."

I do believe that this assumption is indeed wrong, but the fault lies with the NVPH catalogue. Let's see if we can get closer to the number of stamps approved if we *add* the totals for the overprinted stamps to those originally sold.

For the 12 1/2 ct we then get $140,266 + 81,734$ (the 10 ct overprint) = 222,000 which comes a lot closer to 246,300 (the number approved). I am not very happy with this difference of 24,300 stamps, however; it would appear that when in 1898 the "remainders" of the William III issue were overprinted with 10 cent, the authorities would not have "overlooked" that many stamps.

For the 15 ct we find $109,693 + 7,807$ (the 10 ct overprint) = 117,500 (approved 118,900). The 20 ct shows the same picture: $23,413 + 73,487$ (the 10 ct overprint) =

96,900 (approved 99,100).

As the history sheets are not entirely clear about the division in ultramarine and greenish blue we shall tote them up together and see where that gets us. So, of both colors of the 25 ct we get $146,000$ (ultramarine) + $194,224$ (greenish blue) + $45,576$ (the 10 ct overprints) = 385,800 (approved 386,600). For the 30 ct we see $14,934 + 62,666$ (the 10 ct overprint) = 77,600 (approved 78,800). However, if we use the NVPH figures for the 40 ct plus the 25 ct overprint of 1900 we are in trouble because then we get *more* than the approved number of stamps. Looking at the Korteweg catalogue and the *Manual* we get different sets of figures: Korteweg, $22,414 + 51,438$ (the 25 ct overprint) = 73,882 which is indeed less than the approved number (75,800). The *Manual* on the other hand has $22,414 + 52,186$ (the 25 ct overprint) = 74,600, also less than the approved total, *and* also a number that can be divided by 100 as all the others do. Here I hold with the *Manual* and I just wonder where the NVPH got their number of overprints.

But it is the 50 ct which gives us most of the trouble. Let's first see what the NVPH claims: $71,870 + 23,700$ (the 2 1/2 ct overprint) + $86,795$ (the 25 ct overprint) = 182,365 while the number of approved stamps is no more than 179,200! Korteweg and the *Manual* both have 71,780 (I think the NVPH number is a typo), although Korteweg adds an "S" to his figures, meaning "estimates," because of "unknown number of overprints." He and the *Manual* give 25,000 as the number of 2 1/2 ct overprints but Korteweg adds "S" to this number. Finally, Korteweg has *only* 52,010S as the number of 25 ct overprints, while the *Manual* has 86,795.

If we tote up Korteweg's figures we get 148,790 which is lower than the number of approved stamps, but in our estimation a little bit too low. Again, when the last remainders of the King William set were overprinted in 1900, the Surinam government would have been expected to overprint *all* the remaining 50-ct stamps. The "gap" of 30,410 stamps is just too great.

On the other hand, something else is totally wrong with the separate figures in the *Manual* for the various perforations of the 25 ct overprint on the 50-ct stamp (one of the very few mistakes!). The *Manual* gives: 14 small holes, 2,000; 14 large holes, 27,000; 12 1/2:12B, 57,795; 11 1/2:12, 5780, which makes a total of 92,575 while the total behind the stamp (No. 40) is only 86,795.

I would suggest that someone with a lot of spare time and patience go after this problem, although it is not very likely that the correct answer will show up after 91 years.

Now we come to the 1-guilder stamp where we see $16,941 + 9,459$ (the 50 ct overprint of 1900) = 26,400 (approved number 27,745). No problem. But we do have a problem again with the 2 1/2-guilder stamp. Here the NVPH, Korteweg and the *Manual* all have $11,189 + 3,261$ (the 50 ct overprint) = 14,450 while the approved number of stamps is no more than 13,925. Here too I would suggest that the same person with the time and patience go after *this* problem. Perhaps there is something wrong with the number of the approved stamps given, although on the other hand it is possible that the later catalogues just copied a figure from an earlier one without doing any checking themselves. In that case "e ought to concentrate on the 11,189 figure for 2 1/2-guilder stamps sold.

Finally, Dr. Rummens mentioned that "a study about this

BOOK REVIEWS

SPECIALE VERZAMELGEBIEDEN NEDERLAND (Special collecting areas of the Netherlands). Published by "Zonnebloem B.V.," 27th edition, 1991. Code 91-1 ASNP price \$ 11.00.

There exist many collecting specialties, that have not been covered by any standard or specialized catalogue. This 74-page booklet, illustrated in full color, lists 22 of them:

1. "Presentatiemapjes PTT." These are the gift-wrapped new issues, with background information along with some of the new stamps in a transparent stock card. Exist as of Jan. 14, 1982
2. Year Collections PTT. All stamps, sheetlets and booklets of a given year in an attractive presentation. Started in 1976.
3. Booklets. Covers all the booklets since 1964, including selvedge texts and FDCs.
4. Vending machine roll stamps as issued in 1989, including FDCs from the W-series.
5. Bleeding designs. Prices per pair for mint, used and FDCs.
6. First Day Sheets, from the commercial series "Importa," "Visje" and "Select".
7. Maximum cards of the "Molen" and "Enschede" series.
8. First Day Cards. Each stamp embedded in a plastic card of 8 1/2 x 5 cm (3 1/2 x 2"). This facilitates trading with baseball cards, without the stamps getting smudgy. Since 1981.
9. Pro-fil sheets, PTT. These are the Dutch language information sheets, which are available, free of charge, with every new issue. Not commercial; they are 'organized' by individual collectors. Since August 1983.
10. First Day Covers before 1950. Covers with the complete new sets and the ordinary day cancel. Mostly as prepared by individual collectors, but also some commercial ones (Boom, Sluis).
11. First Day Covers, after 1950, with special cancels, apart from the NVPH. These are, for example, the "Dam" and "Autopostkantoor" (Mobile post office) covers, but also those with the cancels from special events, such as "Floriade," "EXPO" and the like, that were available at the day of issue.
12. Special covers from Philatelic Exhibitions such as Amphilex77, Filacept et cetera.
13. Semi-official FDCs. This is the W-series. Exclusively definitives of the sheet and roll variety.
- 14-22 Special envelopes for particular occasions. Listed are:

first issue would be incomplete, if the William III postal stationery were not to be studied as well, and its results dovetailed with the history of the stamps." Perhaps this would be worth a separate article, which would only have to be concerned with postal cards because Surinam at that time did not issue stamped envelopes. If the members would like to see such a study, perhaps a letter or post card to the editor might come in handy to indicate this.

Paul E. van Reyen

Day-of-the-Postage-Stamp, Philatelic Jubilees 1982-84, National Navy Days, Navy Air Camp, Soesterbergh Aviation Museum, ISACAR Flights, Day-of-Aero-Philately, and finally the special envelopes for each of the 150 philatelic wickets in the country.

The unbelievable thing about this catalogue is, that it is by no means comprehensive. For example, there are several more series of maximum cards. The prices in this catalogue are high. This will please, no doubt, the owners of such material. Until the day one has to sell; not uncommonly, the starting prices for auction lots of this kind are in the 10% CV neighborhood. If this is kept firmly in mind, this catalogue has some value.

F.R.

CATALOGUS POSTZEGELS OP BRIEF (Stamps on piece). Buitenkamp and Mueller. 6th Edition 1990-91. 102 pages, illustrated in full color. Code 90-13; ASNP price \$ 21.00

After four years since the previous edition, it was time for a new one. Not only were there all the new issues to be listed, but this particular market is still very hectic and lots of prices needed to be changed.

For example, NVPH 533 the 75 ct Juliana en face as a single franking on cover did not have a CV at all, but now it has a listing of Hfl. 750,-. This CV is in italics though, meaning that there are really insufficient data.

All pre-1950 covers of Child Welfare and Summer stamps are up, particularly the single frankings. Complete sets on (non-FDC) covers remain stable. A beginning has been made with the Officials. Cour Internationale de Justice covers a range from Hfl. 150,- to 1000,- There are also more CVs now for postage due stamps on cover. Combinations from booklets were revised, as we suggested the last time. Many of the more difficult combinations are up dramatically, up to 100%. Strangely enough single stamps from booklets on cover were not changed. Our example of the 15ct Juliana Profile, left or right side imperforated, still stands at Hfl 7,50 each. Last time we offered mr. Buitenkamp Hfl 15,- for each and every one of such covers, but he did not reply, although we had sent him a copy of our review.

New are the stamps from the counter booklets on cover. For example, a 70 + 30 ct Red Cross stamp from the 1983 booklet lists now at Hfl. 10,-. That sounds a lot for such a recent stamp, but as a collector of such covers your reviewer can attest to the scarcity of such pieces. Incidentally, the complete 1983 Red Cross booklet on cover went from Hfl. 10,- to 25,-, again a change that does not surprise us one bit.

All in all, this new catalogue is a welcome addition to our library. A nice touch is provided by the authors, in that with every new edition, new pictures are presented. In this way even the older editions remain worthwhile possessions.

F.R.

EERSTE DAG BRIEVEN (First Day Covers), 8th edition 1991-1992. By C. Avezaat. 148 pp, illustrated. Code 90-14, ASNP price \$ 21.00

This new edition covers the new issues of 1987-1990, up to the VOC/Sail stamps. There are other novelties as well. The so-called W-series of FDCs of definitives (Philato/Zaanstad) is now included. New too, is the inclusion of the Nos 1-25 of the "RIS" (Neth. East Indies). No prices are given in the latter case, but there are several "vbd" data. (= "vroegst bekende datum" = earliest known day of use).

Of special note are the price increases for FDCs on ordinary covers and ordinary day cancels. This reflects an increasing trend away from the gaudy special FDCs, and towards the genuine through-the-mail covers, that parallels the increased interest among collectors for stamps on cover in general. This trend we welcome; if the prices increase as a consequence, so be it. In the 'up' elevator are also those FDCs on ordinary envelopes, but with a special cancel, that happened to be available on the Day-of-Issue. Example: the Beatrix definitives with the "Floriade" special cancel.

The 'colonies' came in for a special treatment. We noticed many new "vbd" data for the first two issues. Many of these beat the previous data by months! Price decreases also occur with FDCs of Netherlands Antilles and Surinam. For example, the "Disberg" second set of definitives on FDC went down from Hfl. 800,- to 350,-.

Although this is a timely new edition, we somehow wished that the pictures were changed once and a while. As with the Buitenkamp/Mueller catalogues, that would make these catalogues much more attractive, even after they have been superseded.

F.R.

Katalogus Postzegel- en Automaatboekjes Nederland, 1991. (Catalogue of stamp booklets). Walter de Rooy. Illustrated in color, 58 pp. ASNP price US \$ 14.00, code 90-13.

As this catalogue has a new edition every other year, the changes are not expected to be major. Of course, all the new booklets are there. There are also two new pages on the topic of printing direction and the differences this brings along when booklets have been printed in both directions. This addition is very useful; collectors now don't have to buy the "Handboek," by De Rooy and Hali.

In the pricing field two trends are continuing. Prices are up again for the old wicket booklets, some with as much as fl. 500,-. Rising prices for the "Zomer" and Red Cross booklets constitute the second trend. The first two "Zomer" booklets of 1984 and 1985 are now listed at fl. 25,- each. Of particular interest is the December discount booklet of 1987. Although more than seven million of these booklets were printed, the catalogue value jumped from fl. 20,- to fl. 30,-, a whopping 50% increase. Finally, the Summer 1985 booklet, accidentally printed on Helicon paper with red phosphorescence, went up by fl. 15,- from a fl. 50,- first listing in the previous edition.

F.R.