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# ASN P



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# Netherlands Philately

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PHILATELY

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## FROM THE EDITOR

The March Journal was the first from our new printer. Most reactions have been positive. Members were particularly pleased, it seems, to receive the March Journal indeed in March. Apparently, the third class handling from Ord, Nebraska, is much faster than the same from Chicago. If those fast deliveries continue, there will be no need for a change to second or first class delivery. Keep writing to us with actual delivery dates.

The other novelty was the high quality paper; that was an experiment, while we consider whether we can afford it. Some members thought the pictures of Fred Reed's article were a bit poor, but those of us in the know were elated that they came out as well as they did. Those of you who read the article and who understand how these pictures came into being will undoubtedly agree with that assessment.

The present issue brings you a major review article on POKOs, by John Heimans and Martin O'Grady. Another substantial contribution is the story of the 22 1/2 cent postal rate in the Netherlands, written by John van Rijdsdam. Not to be missed is the continuing saga of the mysterious plate 1A of the Netherlands No.2 by master detective Fred Reed, and an interesting article about the paper varieties in the Fur Collar issue by Willem van Zandhoven. Then there are several shorter but equally interesting contributions. We wish you happy reading in some nice summery setting.

Frans Rummens  
(Editor pro-tem)

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## THE 22 1/2 CENTS ISSUES OF THE NETHERLANDS.

by John W. van Rijdsdam

As my major philatelic interest is in postal rates, routings and history, I browse a lot in the "speciale". One day my eye was caught by all these 22 1/2 cent stamps issued in the Netherlands. Then I saw an article in *Linn's Stamp News* telling that the Netherlands Philatelists of California, at their 22 1/2 year anniversary, had published a booklet with that same 22 1/2 ct stamps topic as a lead article. Upon reading this, the little grey cells (see Poirot) started to work and I asked myself: "Why did they need this denomination in the first place and why were so many of them printed?"

Scanning the "speciale" of 1991 and making a list (see figure 1) of all the 22 1/2 cent stamps, I came up with sixteen different 22 1/2 cent stamps with a total number printed of close to 34 million, never mind that some quantities were not given (indicated as "n.a."). Remembering a recent article in the "Maandblad" we are not even sure about the numbers that were given, but who cares about a million more or less.

Considering this large number of stamps printed in view of the limited number of civilian letter writers in those days, who could have found a use for such a stamp? I dug into the the Buitenkamp/Müller catalogue of *postzegels op brief* (stamps on piece) and in Da Costa's *Posttarieven Postal rates* and came up with a list of possible single frankings. Figure 2 shows these usages broken down into domestic, foreign and Belgium rates (mail for Belgium always had different rates). Again it struck me how many of these rates applied to letters or post cards with additional services such as registration or special delivery. Very few higher rates (because of higher weight) have ever existed that ended on "1/2 ct". Also, in the pre-WWII years, there were many special rates for parcel mail, printed matter, braille mail, newspapers, samples *et cetera*, but I asked myself: "Why so many? Did we really need 34 million of them?"

There is a possibility, that the PTT had similar thoughts and that they used loads of them to overprint. Again I got my *speciale* out of the book case and I went to the so-called Back-of-the-Book issues. Sure enough, several stamps were overprinted to be used as clearing out issues. A look at Figure 3 tells us that we can subtract three million stamps. Still 31 million left!. Could it be that some were overprinted for use in the Colonies? Alas, a check of the *speciale* showed that there were no such uses, although indeed other values had been used for that purpose.

So, that is how I started my new Dutch Mini Collection; THE 22 1/2 CENTERS. In Figure 4 all the stamps are shown, followed by some covers. My main goal is to obtain single frankings; when these are not readily available I take mixed frankings. All in all I had a lot of fun working up this Mini Collection and that is what the hobby is all about.

### Sources:

1969-1991; 22 1/2 Year Anniversary of the Netherlands Philatelists of California.

1991 NVPH Speciale Catalogus van de Postzegels van Nederland en Overzeese Rijksdelen.

Catalogus Postzegels op Brief, H. Buitenkamp and E. Müller.

Binnenlandse en Internationale Posttarieven van Nederland 1850-1990, W.S. da Costa.

The above titles are all available from the ASNP Library/Bookstore

*Note by the editor: 31 million stamps sounds a lot, but when one considers that this story spans 73 years from 1875-1948, it averages to 400,000 stamps a year, or just over 1,000 stamps a day. Considering that there were some 1600 post offices of various kinds in the time of the "Klein Rond" cancels and more in the nineteen forties, it averages to less than ONE registered letter or post card per day per post office. Not an unreasonable number at all, never mind that most of these 22 1/2 ct stamps were used in mixed frankings.*

Figure 1.  
NETHERLANDS 22 1/2 CENT STAMPS ISSUED FROM 1872-1947

ISSUE YEAR	SET	NVPH	NUMBER PRINTED
1872-88	Willem III	25	410,000
1891-99	Princess Wilhelmina	41	761,000
1899-1921	Queen Wilhelmina	70	14,090,000
1926-39	Queen Wilhelmina	190	2,006,000
		191	525,000
		R 27	n.a.
1940	Queen Wilhelmina	340	n.a.
1940	Guilloche	363	551,000
1941	Dove	387	3,974,000
1943	Naval Heroes	418	4,389,139
1944	Queen Wilhelmina	438	1,500,000
1947	Queen Wilhelmina	482	5,715,600

Figure 2.  
POSSIBLE SINGLE USES OF 22 1/2 CENT STAMPS

USAGE FOR	PERIOD	SERVICE PROVIDED
Domestic (inter local)	1-XII-1919 till 28-II-1921	first weight letter with Special Delivery
	1-III-1921 till 30-IX-1926	Registered post card
	1-VII-1927 till 31-X-1929	Registered letter of the first weight class
Foreign (surface mail)	1-VII-1875 till 30-X-1919	Registered letter of the first weight class
	1-XI-1928 till 31-XII-1934	Registered post card
	1-IV-1939 till 31-X-1946	Registered letter of the first weight class
Belgium	1-XI-1919 till 28-II-1921	Registered letter of the first weight class
	1-X-1925 till 31-X-1928	Letter of the 2nd weight class
	1-XI-1928 till 31-XII-1934	Registered post card

Figure 3.  
22 1/2 CENT STAMPS USED FOR OVERPRINTS

1923	120A and 120B; 10 cent overprint on No. 70	1,040,000
1923-24	Parcel post Collection Stamp # 1; 11 cent overprint on No. 70	66,300
1929	NVPH 224; 21 cent overprint on No. 190	1,831,100

Figure 4.  
THE 22 1/2 CENT STAMPS OF THE NETHERLANDS



King William III 1872-88



Princess Wilhelmina 1891-99



Queen Wilhelmina 1899-21



Queen Wilhelmina 1926-39



Queen Wilhelmina 1940



Guilloche Issue 1940  
Holland behind bars



Dove Series 1941



Queen Wilhelmina 1944  
Liberation Issue



Naval Heroes 1943



Queen Wilhelmina 1947



Figure 5. Registered letter mailed August 15, 1910, franked with the 22 1/2 cent stamp from the 1899 Wilhelmina Fur Collar issue. Letter rate to Germany was 12 1/2 ct plus 10 ct registration fee.

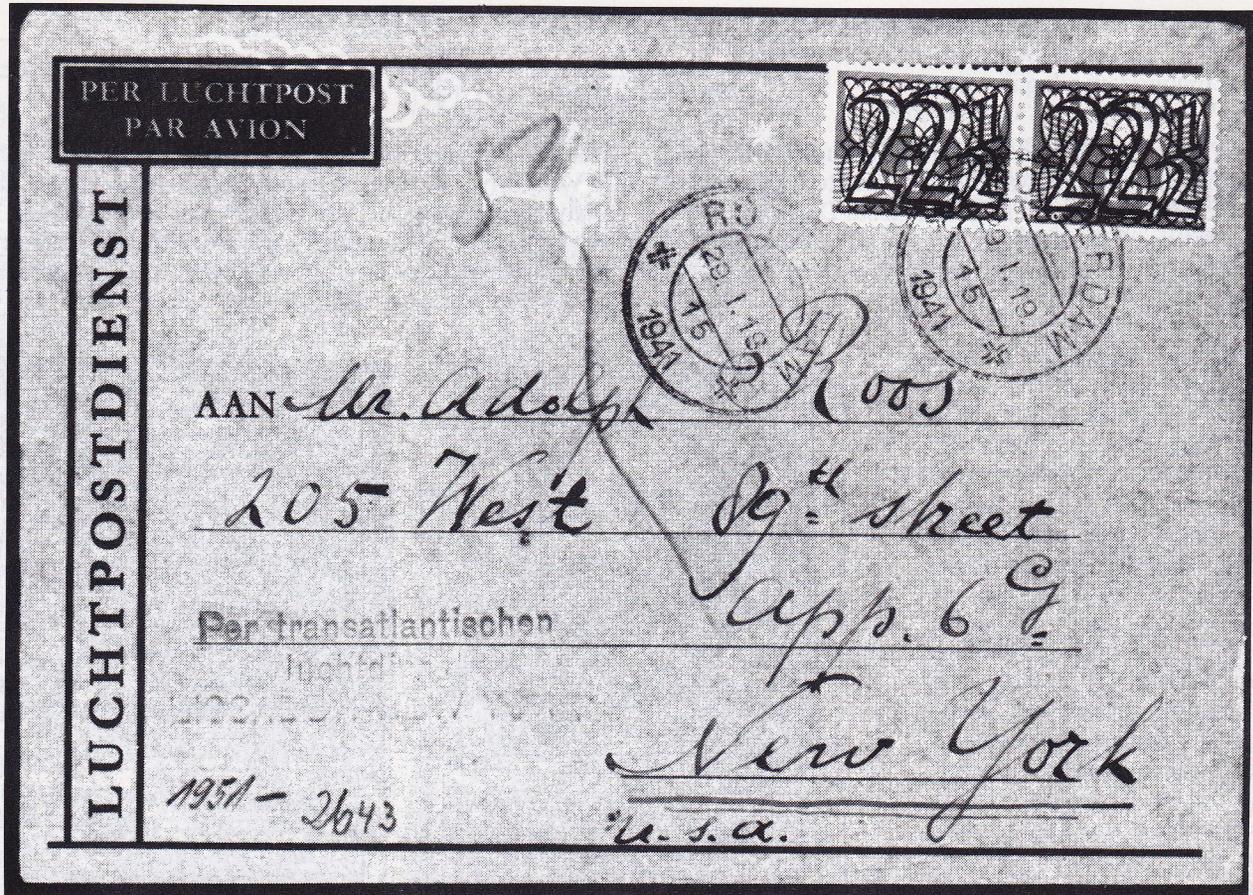


Figure 6. Air Mail letter, mailed on January 21, 1941, to New York; censored by the German Army, this letter would go via Lisbon "Per Transatlantic Air Service to New York". The valid rate for such a 5 gram letter was 45 cents, paid for by two 22 1/2 cent stamps from the Guilloche set, the latter also known as the "Holland behind Bars" issue.

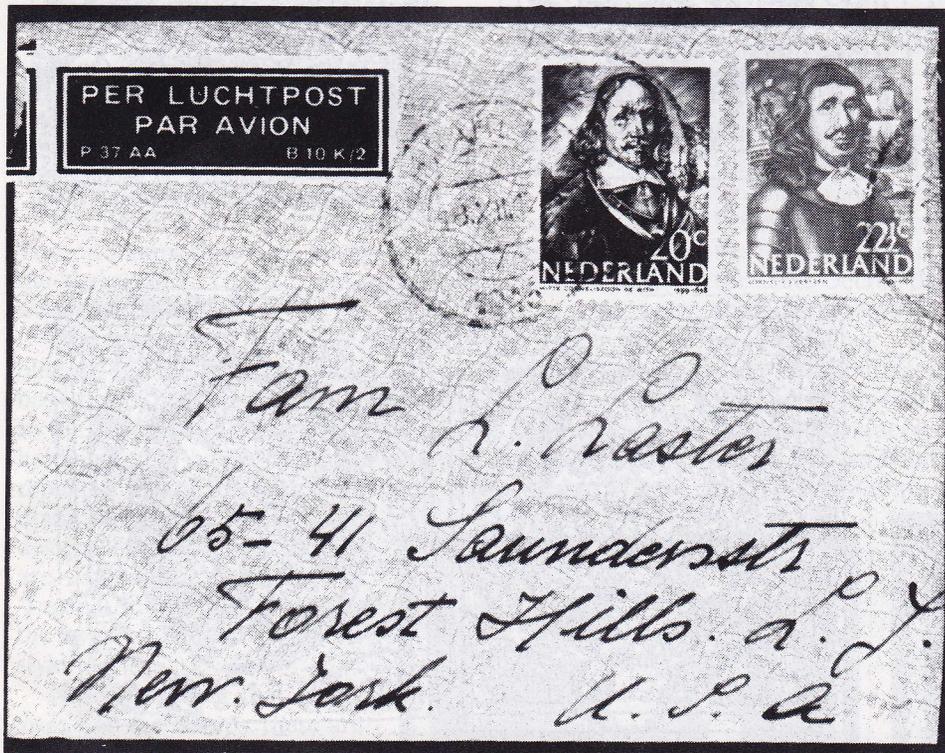


Figure 7. Air Mail letter mailed on December 18, 1945, to the U.S.A.. At that time the first rate was 42 1/2 cent, here paid for by a 20 ct and a 22 1/2 ct stamp from the Naval Heroes issue, which at that time was still valid.

## FURTHER Re: PLATE 1A OF THE 10 CENT 1852 ISSUE

by: Fred L. Reed

Upon our return from a holiday on February 11th, there, among the bulk of mail, was the long-awaited supplement III for the 1A book as well as a letter from Dr. Louis. Here is a translation of Dr. Louis' reaction to the recently found blank sheet of watermarked paper presumed to be the missing type IV:

"In the meantime I have received a photo of the newly discovered watermarked sheet and I have compared it with the three previously known sheets. I must say that I have doubts that this is the so-called sheet type IV. Judging from the photo there are too few differences, in my opinion none (*emphasis Fred R.*). One must realize that I am dealing with photos, with all their advantages and disadvantages. My measurements of the distance between the 5th and the 6th horizontal rows is the same as in the other photos. For this I had to interpolate slightly because the photo of sheet No. IV is slightly larger than those of my three other sheets."

Knowing Dr. Louis' penchant for precision, the problem of the four types of paper appears not solved yet.

The supplement III is a labor of love, compiled and photographed over a period of seven years. Dr. Louis acknowledges that the photographs taken during that period at different points in time show variations as with his limited equipment the distance from the lens is never exactly the same and there are other hurdles too. However, he was able to identify a vertical pair in the plate correctly: 2061/2017. There are some minor inconsistencies; a 1070 Nijmegen is also listed under Arnhem (page VI-1.0 + + +), while listings for three Nijmegen post marks (A204, A4037 and A2059) were omitted. According to my strict standards I found some likely pairs in the sheet: 1073-3045, 207/1069 and 205/1041 (see Figure 1). This es-

tablishes a connection between 205/2041 (see *Neth. Philately* Vol 17 No. 3, page 38) and 1055/204, which, on close analysis, eliminates 1055/1035 (*N.P.* Vol 17 No. 3, page 37). See Figure 2. This is another example of the vulnerability of my approach and of how photos of watermarks would help to confirm or reject such findings. Please note that the



Figure 1.

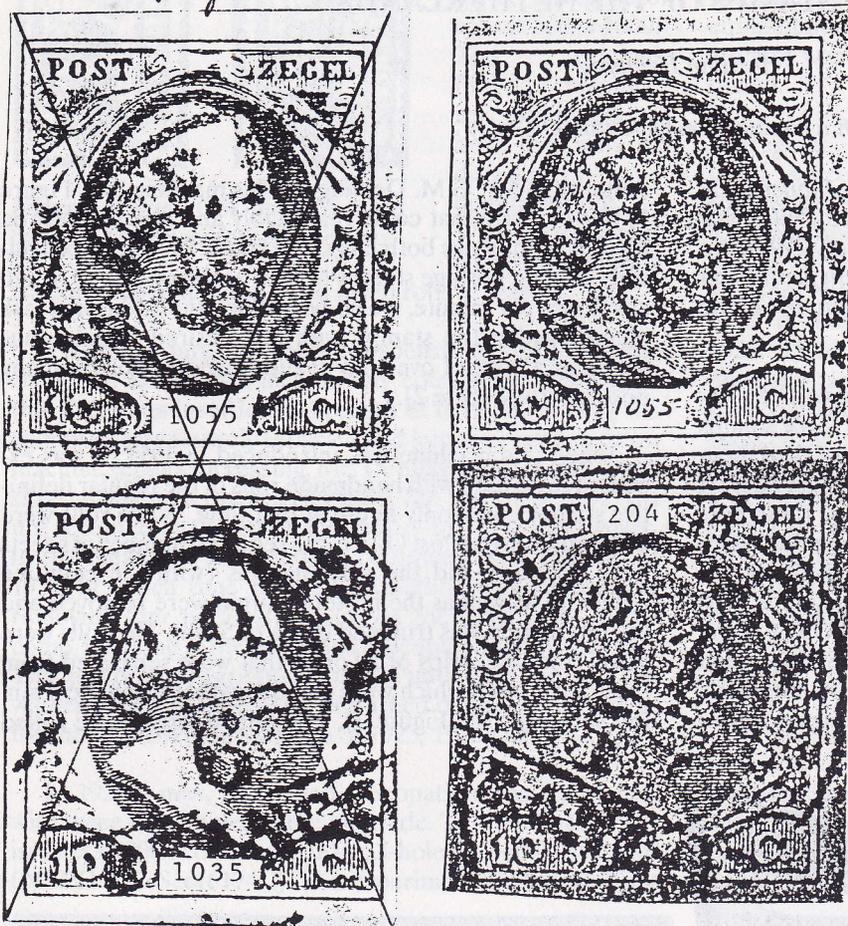


Figure 2. Incorrect

Correct

### THE CHILD WELFARE STAMPS OF THE NETHERLANDS OF 1923

by: Frans H. A. Rummens

No, there is no typing error in the title and yes, the Toorop stamps shown are the first Child Welfare stamps of the Netherlands. That is contrary to established wisdom, so we better explain.

First have a close look at the designs. On the 2 cent violet blue we see the figure at the left giving something from a bowl (food?) to the CHILD in the foreground at the right. In the background there is a second figure (woman) also holding up her hand. The theme of giving and receiving is repeated on the 10 cent orange red stamp. There is no doubt; these are WELFARE designs. *Inter alia*, both designs are splendid examples of "Jugend Stil" or "Art Deco" by the foremost Dutch artist of this style.

Next something that is not visible on the stamps: these are semi postals! They were of 2 + 5 ct and 10 + 5 ct denominations,



photos of copies from Supplement III have the numbers on top.

Concerning the just quoted paper in *Netherlands Philately*: Figure 7 on page 40 was supposed to show vertical guide lines to illustrate the horizontal displacement of the watermarks. However, this misalignment is quite apparent even to the naked eye. Also, an explanation might have been in order that a hyphen, such as in 2035-101 indicates a horizontal pair, whereas a slash as in 1011/1037 indicates a vertical pair. Finally, please cross out as irrelevant the 1055/2045 also on page 40.

only the second issue of Dutch stamps with surcharge after the disaster of the Tuberculose stamps of 1906. The gross total surcharge yield of the Toorop stamps was Hfl. 20,437,-. Note that the surcharge on the 2 cent stamp exceeds by far the limit of 50% of basic denomination, set by FIP. This stamp, therefore, cannot be exhibited at FIP-sponsored Exhibitions. The NVPH catalogue mentions that the surcharge was for "various societies", which is rather vague.

The NVPH Catalogue also mentions that the stamps were available from December 15, 1923, till January 15, 1924. This mid-December to mid-January is exactly the period

during which in subsequent years the Child Welfare stamps were available.

The Royal Decree that allowed the PTT to sell these surcharged stamps is dated December 3, 1923. That is more than a year before the first "official" Child Welfare stamps became available in December 1924, but also two weeks before the 1923 Toorop stamps went on sale. Significantly, the Royal Decree is open ended, for all years to come. It is the same Decree that was invoked by the PTT in 1924 and subsequent years for all the "true" Child Welfare stamps that were to follow.

Conclusion: Even if the Toorop stamps of 1923 do not fully qualify as real Child Welfare stamps, at the very least they should be accepted as precursors to these. Any specialized "Voor het Kind" collection should therefore start with the Toorop stamps.

## THE POKO STAMPS OF THE NETHERLANDS

by John Heimans

with a contribution by Martin O'Grady

*Editor: This article was first published in the Jubilee book "1969-1991 22 1/2 Year Anniversary Netherlands Philatelists of California". It next was published in the January 1993 issue of the Perfin Bulletin (USA). It appears here with permission of the author in slightly edited form and with a complete listing of POKOs drawn up by Martin O'Grady.*

Stamp collectors throughout the world have been acquainted with perfin for many years. Many of these stamps were destroyed for lack of interest and dealers called them "weeds of no value". Some philatelists developed an interest in trying to identify the source of the maker of these perforated stamps. It was only logical that 'Netherlands' collectors also began collecting perfin. Many of them started collecting perfin on syncopated perforated stamps, and then only those perfin that were POKOs. POKO is the abbreviation of PORTO KONTROLL KASSE, German for Postage Control Register. It was a German automatic stamp-affixing business machine, sold by a Belgian repre-

sentative, a Mr. G.M. Dehlinger. This machine (see Figure 1) was of a size that could reasonably and conveniently be used by companies both large and small. Besides mechanically affixing postage stamps to mail at the rate of 80 to 120 envelopes per minute, it also performed the additional task of perforating the stamps with any desired initials, thus acting as a control over the unauthorized use of company postage (see Figure 2).

When this machine was introduced in 1911, it was expected to be used with handmade rolls of the regular definitive stamps commonly in use at that time. When rolls were ordered from the Post Office, the required number of sheets were obtained and the side margins (with the counting numbers) as well as the bottom margin were removed and the top margin was trimmed down to 5 mm. The rolls were made from the strips of 20 or 10 that were separated from these sheets and which were glued together using the 5 mm top selvage (see Figure 3). The joined strips were rolled

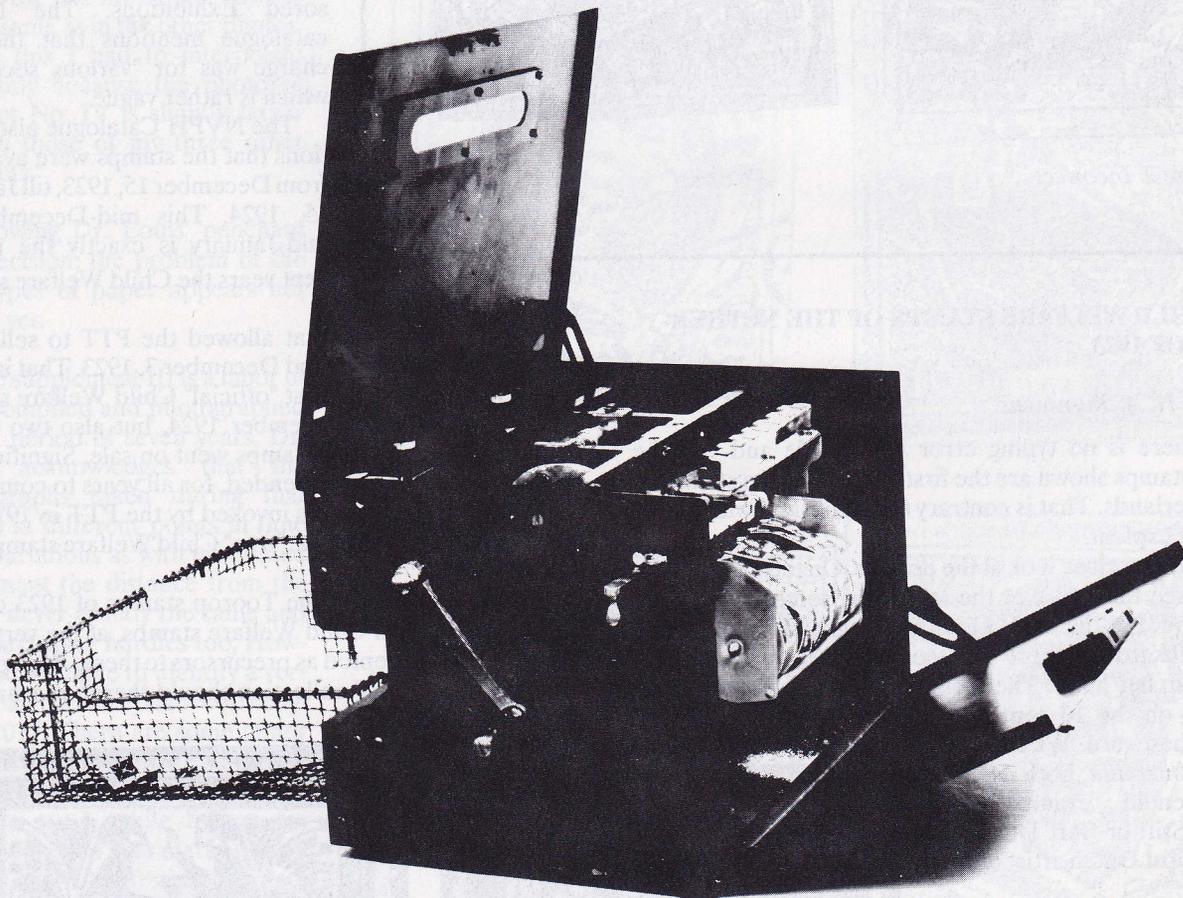


Figure 1. The POKO machine, as imported by G.M. Dehlinger.



Figure 2. Perfins GM and PK, used by G.M. Dehlinger for test purposes.

was capable of holding up to seven rolls of stamps.

This procedure was not only expensive because of labor costs, but there were increasingly complaints from users, that there was insufficient strength of the rolls causing the stamps to prematurely separate and jam the machine. With machine repairs increasing, Mr. Dehlinger requested a possible change to a finer perforation, but this suggestion was not accepted by the postal authorities until 1933. However, in the meantime the problem continued until the end of 1924, at which time a stop-gap method was adopted by removing four perforation pins on the short sides of the comb, resulting in the two-sided syncopated stamps of 1925. This perforation variety was in use until 1928 for both the watermarked and the unwatermarked definitives as well as for the Child Welfare stamps of 1925, 1926 and 1927.

In 1926 a new, four-sided syncopation was attempted, with twice three holes in the long side. This led to the 1927 issue of 10 000 of the, now elusive, 3-hole 7 1/2 ct violet stamp (NVPHR32, Scott 174C). This experiment did not work out

on a spool into rolls of 500 or 1000. The original POKO machine was equipped to hold five rolls of different denominations.

With a subsequent change in design it

with the intended equipment and the attempt was abandoned.

Regular four-sided syncopated stamps with perforation holes in groups of four on all sides were issued in February 1928. These were designed so that they could be made in rolls with either the short or the long sides of the stamps joined. As this perforation still did not solve all the problems with the automatic vending machines, a new two-sided syncopation with one hole missing each corner of the short sides was introduced on November 7, 1930. The complete resolution of the problems did not come until 1934, with the introduction of the new 13 1/2 : 12 3/4 comb, which made smaller holes and more of them on the short side, just as Dehlinger had recommended ten years earlier.

A few cases are known of POKO machines that were not provided with a perfin perforator. The stamps from these machines are recognizable as roll stamps because of their cut sides, if not through their syncopated perfs, but they can only be recognized as POKOs when on a cover or card that carries the name of the user, who is known to have owned a



Figure 3. At left: a 20 cent unused stamp, with syncopated perforation on four sides and POKO perfin "DM". At right: the same stamp reversed. Note the connecting strip, where two strips of stamps were joined.

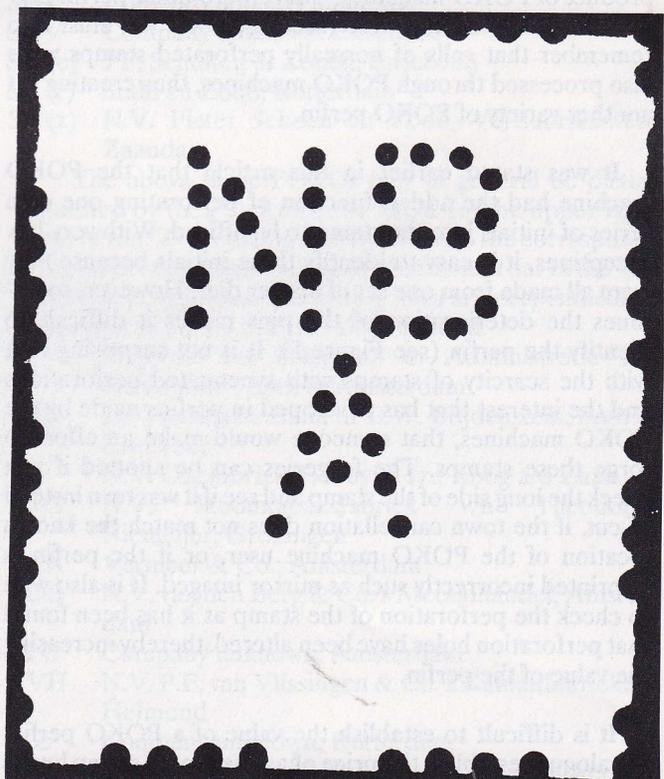
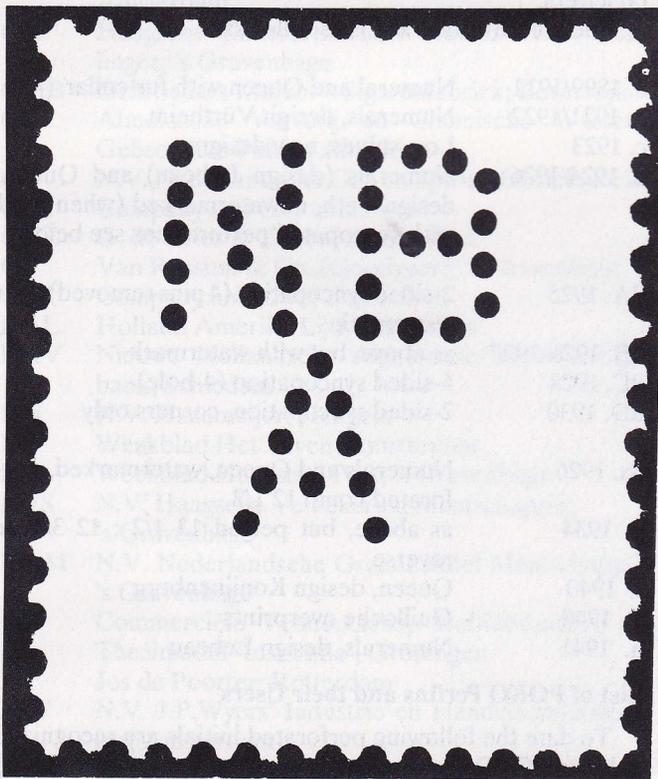


Figure 4. The perfin "NB/A" exists both hand-perforated (left) and as a POKO (right). The POKO can be distinguished by the smaller holes and by the single hole that forms the crossbar of the "A". In the hand-perforated variety this crossbar hole is

practically in a straight line with two holes of the two legs, whereas in the POKO the crossbar hole is equidistant to the four nearest holes.

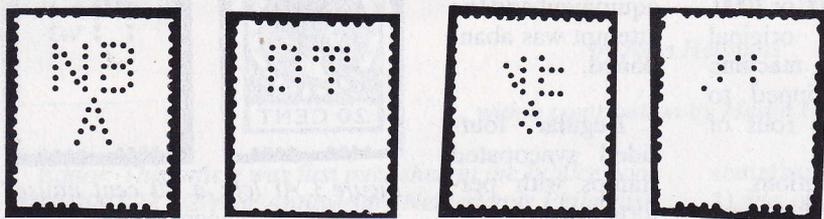


Figure 5. An obstacle that is often encountered in collecting perfins is the deterioration of the pins that do the perforating. At left the complete (POKO) perfins "NB/A" and "DT". At right the same perfins, but only partially perforated.

POKO machine at that time. Although all the stamps with perforated initials on piece are difficult to find, (syncopated) POKO stamps without perfin but on cover are extremely rare.

We also note that POKO perfins exist on syncopated Child Welfare stamps of the 1925 to 1931 issues, with the exception of 1928, when the unusual format of the stamps did not fit the machines. There exist just twenty different perfins amongst these, with two varieties, making these stamps very elusive; they fetch premium prices when found.

As the following is a brief history of syncopated rolls in POKO machines, it must be clearly understood, that all perfins on syncopated stamps are not necessarily the product of POKO machines. There were other perfin perforators in use at that time (see Figure 4). We must also remember that rolls of normally perforated stamps were also processed through POKO machines, thus creating yet another variety of POKO perfin.

It was stated earlier in this article that the POKO machine had the added function of perforating one or a series of initials into the stamp to be affixed. With very few exceptions, it is easy to identify these initials because they were all made from one set of master dies. However, sometimes the deterioration of the pins makes it difficult to identify the perfin (see Figure 5). It is not surprising that with the scarcity of stamps with syncopated perforations and the interest that has developed in perfins made by the POKO machines, that someone would make an effort to forge these stamps. The forgeries can be spotted if you check the long side of the stamp and see if it was torn instead of cut, if the town cancellation does not match the known location of the POKO machine user, or if the perfin is imprinted incorrectly such as mirror imaged. It is also wise to check the perforation of the stamp as it has been found that perforation holes have been altered, thereby increasing the value of the perfin.

It is difficult to establish the value of a POKO perfin. Catalogues establish the price of a syncopated stamp by the total quantity of the printing; in reality the usage of the same stamp can change its value greatly. As a roll stamp used in a POKO machine, the perfin on those stamps that were in everyday use for the domestic rates, such as the 10 and 15

cent, were and are common. The postal authorities, having spent a lot of time and effort making rolls of these values, reserved them for the machine users, and few mint ones were available to the public through the philatelic windows. Conversely, other values of lesser demand by machine users created a surplus of these stamps at the Post Office, which allowed many more to be sold to collectors in mint strips as well as in sheets. With the variance of use, the normal catalogue price of the syncopated stamp does not reflect the true scarcity of the perfin. (Editor's note: in the meantime the "Perfin Club Nederland" has held more than 20 auctions, which has gone far toward the estab-

lishment of true market values)

When we consider quantities, we must appreciate the fact that there were approximately 1250 varieties as a product of the POKO machine. This total includes the use of 77 different initials and symbols on many of the 101 syncopated stamp types. These numbers are known as of to-day, but more are still being discovered. POKOs are a most interesting and growing collecting specialty, but one should be aware that it is not easy to build up a representative collection.

The following list groups all known POKOs by definitive stamp issue. Issues with normal perforation are indicated by a lower case letter; syncopated issues are indicated by capital letters.

The identification key is as follows:

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| a. 1899/1921  | Numeral and Queen with fur collar   |
| b. 1921/1922  | Numerals, design Vürtheim   |
| c. 1923       | Low values, new designs   |
| d. 1924/1926  | Numerals (design Lebeau) and Queen, design Veth, unwatermarked (when used with syncopated perforations see below) |
| dA. 1925      | 2-sided syncopation (4 pins removed), w/o watermark   |
| dB. 1926-1927 | as above, but with watermark  |
| dC. 1928      | 4-sided syncopation (4-hole)  |
| dD. 1930      | 2-sided syncopation, corners only   |
| dx. 1926      | Numerals and Queen, watermarked, perforated comb 12 1/2   |
| e. 1934       | as above, but perfed 13 1/2 : 12 3/4 or reverse   |
| f. 1940       | Queen, design Konijnenburg  |
| g. 1940       | Guilloche overprints  |
| h. 1941       | Numerals, design Lebeau   |

#### List of POKO Perfins and their Users

To date the following perforated initials are recognized as being POKOs. Including the forerunners, the syncopated perforations and the afterrunners, this list contains 77 different perfins. Included are (if known) the names and principal cities of the Companies that used a POKO machine for a punched out identification of their stamps.

- AEG Algemeine Elektrizitäts Gesellschaft; Amsterdam  
AL Amsterdamsche Maatschappij voor Levensverzekering; Amsterdam  
ALM Amsterdamsche Leder Maatschappij; Amsterdam/Oisterwijk(1928)  
AMG N.V. Albino Maatschappij; Groningen  
B&H Koninklijke Handelsmaatschappij Boeke & Huidekooper; Haarlem  
BNG Bank voor Nederlandsche Gemeenten; 's Gravenhage  
BSM Borneo-Sumatra Handel Maatschappij; 's Gravenhage  
CB N.V. tot Exploitatie van Bendien's Confectiefabrieken; Almelo  
CCB Coöperatieve Centrale Boerenleenbank; Eindhoven  
CK C. Keg's Groothandel N.V.; Zaandam  
CSE Firma C. Strauss-Evans; Amsterdam  
CSM Centrale Suiker Maatschappij; Amsterdam  
DB Deutsche Bank; Amsterdam  
DEB Handel Maatschappij H. Albert de Bary & Co.; Amsterdam  
DH D. Hudig & Co.; Rotterdam  
DM Drogerijen Maatschappij; Rotterdam  
DT Dagblad de Telegraaf; Amsterdam  
E (in hexagon) Marathon Staal Maatschappij N.V.; Rotterdam  
EL N.V. Electrolux; 's Gravenhage  
°°G°° Company unknown; Rotterdam  
GF Company unknown; Delft  
GHB G.H. Bührmann's Papiergroothandel N.V.; Amsterdam  
GM Haagsche Kantoormachine Handel G.M. Dehlinger; 's Gravenhage  
GMB Gebroeders Majoor's Sigarenfabriek; Beverwijk  
GP Almelosche Ververij en Chemische Wasserij Gebroeders Palthe; Almelo  
GS N.V. Nederlandsche Gist en Spiritusfabriek; Delft  
GSC Company and City unknown  
GVZ G. de Vries & Zonen; Amsterdam  
GY Van Rossum & Co. (Goodyear); 's Gravenhage  
°°H°° Company unknown; Rotterdam  
HAL Holland Amerika Lijn; Rotterdam  
HAV Nieuwe Hollandsche Algemeene Verzekering-bank; Schiedam  
HH N.V. Hazemeijer; Hengelo  
HL Weekblad Het Leven; Amsterdam  
HP Weekblad Haagsche Post; 's Gravenhage  
HVS N.V. Haagsche Verzekering Maatschappij; 's Gravenhage  
H&M N.V. Nederlandsche Graanhandel Maatschappij; 's Gravenhage  
IG Commerciële Vennootschap Koffiebranderij en Theehandel "Insulinde"; Groningen  
JdP Jos de Poorter; Rotterdam  
JPW N.V. J.P. Wyers' Industrie en Handelsonderneming; Amsterdam  
JR I.I. Rozendaal's Import en Export Compagnie N.V.; Amsterdam  
KG Königs Günther en Co. Successeurs; Amsterdam  
KLO Kol & Co, Bankers; Amsterdam  
KMG N.V. Kaashandel Maatschappij "Gouda"; Gouda  
LS J. Langeveldt en J. Herm. Schröder, Assurantiën; Amsterdam  
L&Co N.V. Chemische Fabriek v/h Langenberg & Co.; 's Heerenberg  
LZM N.V. De Lever Zeep Maatschappij; Vlaarding  
N Internationale Tentoonstelling van Moderne Kantoorinrichtingen en Administratie "ITKA"; Amsterdam  
NBA De Nederlandsche Bank N.V.; Amsterdam  
NH Nederlandsche Handelsassociatie; Rotterdam  
NIH Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank N.V. 's Gravenhage  
NOG Levensverzekering Maatschappij, Nederlandsch Onderwijzers Genootschap; Amsterdam  
OG N.V. Van der Graaf & Co.; Amsterdam  
OK Fabrieken van Spoorwegmateriaal v/h Orenstein & Koppel; Amsterdam  
OVF Ongevallen Verzekeringsmaatschappij "Fatum"; 's Gravenhage  
PGE N.V. Provinciale Geldersche Electriciteits Maatschappij; Arnhem  
PJB Firma P.J. Blom; Enschedé  
PJP Company unknown; Breda  
PK G.M. Dehlinger (importeur POKO machines); Wassenaar  
RKH Rhodius Koenigs Handel Maatschappij; Amsterdam  
SC N.V. Almelosche Confectiefabriek v/h Smits & Co.; Almelo  
SHB Scheltema en Holkema's Boekhandel; Amsterdam  
SHV Company and city unknown  
SUV Company unknown; Enschedé  
SZ (e) J.F. Scholten & Zonen; Enschedé  
SZ (r) Stahl en Zoon; Rotterdam  
SZ (z) N.V. Pieter Schoen en Zoon, Verffabrikanten; Zaandam  
The above three POKOs may in general be distinguished by their cancellation; in SZ (r) the upper right pin of the "Z" is missing. If one connects the corresponding holes of the upper and lower horizontal bar of the "Z", then in SZ (e) these connecting lines are perpendicular, whereas in SZ (z) they are slightly tilted.  
T Dagblad "De Telegraaf" or Administratie "De Radiobode"; both in Amsterdam  
TBE De Twentsche Bank or B.W. Blijdenstein; both in Enschedé  
TD N.V. Oliefabriek T. Duyvis Jz.; Koog a/d Zaan  
TNG N.V. Stoomtabaksfabriek v/h Theodorus Niemeijer; Groningen  
VCA Vermeer & Co.; Amsterdam  
VDB N.V. van den Berg & Co.'s Metaalhandel; Amsterdam  
VPC Company unknown; Amsterdam  
VVH N.V. P.F. van Vlissingen & Co.'s Katoenfabrieken; Helmond  
WZ Company unknown; Rotterdam  
(Triangle) N.V. Zuid-Hollandsche Bierbrouwerij; 's Gravenhage  
(David Star) Company unknown; Nijmegen

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## BOOK REVIEW

*The Development of KLM Airmail Service Holland-Dutch East Indies 1920-1942* by M. Verkuil. Published by the International Federation of Aerophilatelic Societies (FISA), (1991). Large 8 1/2 x 12" format, 63 pages, illustrated. Ordering Code 91-5, ASNP price \$22.00 post paid.

Many philatelic writers have published articles about certain KLM flights and developments such as the famous UIVER (Stork) and SNIP (Snipe) flights and the KLM pioneering on the Dutch East Indies Line, but never has a complete story been published from the start of the KLM ventures till the second World War ending in 1942, when the islands of the Dutch East Indies were conquered by the Japanese armies and all traffic between the motherland and its colonies came to a halt.

Martinus Verkuil in this book takes us down memory lane. We learn about the first flight to Java and about the men that started it all: Plesman, Snijders and Hofstee. It shows us the early FOKKER planes used on the European and Indies routes and it shows many pictures of covers flown on these routes. It tells us also about the feeder lines from other countries that hooked up with the KLM-Indies line.

Separate chapters discuss the Pioneer Flights of 1927, the First Experimental Flights of 1928 and the Second Trial Flights of 1929. From there the book goes into the more regular air service from Amsterdam to Bandoeng and the Java-Australia Test Flight by Pattist in 1931.

Other chapters tell us the stories about the "Postjager", the "Pelikaan" and the "Uiver", the latter in the London-Melbourne Race. As at that time the KLM discontinued the older type Fokker planes and switched to the all-metal DC-2 and DC-3 airplanes, the writer tells us about this change too.

The book ends with the KLM efforts during the period of 1940-42 when, although in Europe a war had been going on for three years, there was still airmail traffic from free parts of the world to the Indies till the war in the Pacific stopped this too.

The book is written in English and has been richly illustrated with pictures of planes and flown covers of that period. Not only is the book a must for Dutch Airmail collectors, but it is also a very enjoyable book for anyone else.

John W. van Rijdsdam

*(Editor: This book was published more than two years ago, but it was not (and still is not) available from the regular book suppliers in the Netherlands, good reason for our Bookstore to stay away from it. Recently, however, we have via an alternate method obtained five copies of this book, which are now available from the ASNP Bookstore, first come, first serve. To ASNP member and author Marinus Verkuil our somewhat belated but very deserved congratulations for what is indeed a most enjoyable reading book.)*

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

*Re; Statistics (Revenue) Stamps*

The arrival of *Netherlands Philately* is always a red letter day and the December 92 issue was no exception. Regarding its contents I find that I can contribute information to the article by Rein Bakhuizen van den Brink in two ways.

Firstly, regarding the paragraph on Statistics (Revenue) Stamps; I am enclosing a photocopy of my album page which

displays seven of these stamps. They are indeed perforated comb 12 1/2, printed by photogravure in red with the value in black. As you will see I have the following values: 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 50 and 75 cent. They were to be affixed onto export licenses from the Indies.

Secondly, I have comments regarding the Receipt Stamps ("plakzegels") and here I have put them into the form of a separate article. (*Editor: which we shall publish shortly*)

Richard Wheatly

# Netherlands East Indies

## FISCAL STAMPS

### GOVERNMENT STATISTICS

PERF. 12 1/2 COMB



To BE AFFIXED ON EXPORT LICENSES FROM THE INDIES

# WORLD WAR II DUTCH MAIL TO THE NETHERLANDS INDIES

by J. Lewis Blackburn

Several years ago my China interest spotted an inexpensive 1941 cover from the Netherlands to Shanghai which had been re-addressed and forwarded to the Netherlands Indies. After obtaining this cover and being curious about some of the markings, photocopies were sent to a Dutch friend. He responded "I happen to know more about this type of mail than probably anyone else, because I was personally involved in similar routing of such letters from Holland via the United States and Manila to the Netherlands Indies. As it so happened I was employed by the Dutch Steamship Company called the 'Java-China-Japan Line' (J.C.J.L.) for 17 years and I was stationed during those years all over the Far East (He was interned by the Japanese in Manila) and after the War in South America.".....

"After the occupation of the Netherlands from May 10, 1940, the Nazis prohibited any mail directly to the Netherlands Indies. However, the Dutch found out that they could write to their relatives and friends in the Netherlands Indies via a neutral country such as China (Shanghai) or the Philippines (Manila)".....

The J.C.J.L. maintained a twice weekly service between Java, Manila, Hong Kong and Shanghai and reverse. This cover, addressed to a Mr. Timmers, is in care of Mr. van Oosterum of the J.C.J.L., Shanghai. Mr. van Oosterum was a ship officer on one of the ships of the Company and therefore he came over so often to Shanghai. I knew him personally at that time and as I recall he was 2nd or 3rd officer. By thus addressing mail to him, care of the Company's office in Shanghai, this mail would be put on board of one of the ships to Java, or taken personally if he happened to be on board the ship. Thus, if Mr. van Oosterum did not receive the letters in Shanghai as in this case, the mail on arrival in Java was received at the J.C.J.L. harbor office where a special clerk in charge of ship's mail directed the letters to the office where he (Mr. van Oosterum) was or would be first on his return to Java. There they were hand-delivered to him and he arranged for their delivery to the parties addressed, in this example, to Mr. Timmers."

Now to specifically describe and trace the routing of this cover shown in the illustrations of the front and the back:

The cover is addressed to

Mr. P. Timmers, c/o Mr. W.T. van Oosterum, Java China Japan Line, Shanghai and was mailed at the international surface rate of 12 1/2 ct from Loosduinen in the Netherlands on June 24, 1941. It was censored by the Germans in Berlin as indicated by the small "b" at the bottom of the circle on the resealing tape and the two red inspection stamps tying the tape to the cover. While there is no Shanghai receiving postmark, there is a three-segment circular black Shanghai security censor Chop<sup>(1)</sup> with "Chia" at the top and 9/11 at the bottom for September 11. Thus the transit time to Shanghai was 79 days.

The usual route from Berlin was east through the USSR and the Trans-Siberian Railroad, but with the German attack on Russia from June 22, 1941, onward this route was blocked. Most likely this was re-routed south through Munich, Vienna, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Istanbul through Ezerum, into the USSR, Tiflis and North and East via the Trans-Siberian Railroad, then through Manchoukuo to Shanghai.

After the entry of Italy into the War on June 10, 1940, an agreement was reached between the Axis and Switzerland for the transport of non-military items between Germany and Italy. With the fall of France essentially closing the Mediterranean this surface route was extended into and through Turkey for communications to and from the outside with neutral Switzerland.

(1) "Shanghai Security Censor Chops" by Ping-wen Sieh and J. Lewis Blackburn, *The China Clipper* (The China Stamp Society), Vol. 47, No. 2, January 1983, pages 44-52.



At Shanghai this cover was delivered to the J.C.J.L. office there and put on one of their ships to Java where it was received by the steamship company at Tandjong Priok on October 6, 1941. Tandjong Priok is the name of the harbor of Batavia (now Jakarta). This is indicated by the purple rectangular stamp "Ontvangen (= received), 6 Oct. 1941, AFD.N.D. Priok J.C.J.L." AFD.N.D. stands for "Afdeling Nautische Dienst" or "Nautical Department".

The J.C.J.L. office at Priok crossed out the J.C.J.L. Shanghai address in blue and added a purple rubber stamp reading "Bijkantoor (= branch office), Java-China-Japan Lijn N.V., Tandjong Perak, Soerabaja". This was to forward the letter to Van Oosterum at Tandjong Perak, the harbor of Soerabaja (now Surabaya).

It was placed in the Netherlands Indies Post Office as indicated by the faint purple rectangular rubber stamp "Verzonden (= sent or dispatched), 15 Oct. 1941, AFD N.D. Priok J.C.J.L." and the postmark "Tandjong Priok, October 15, 1941" on the back. The nine day delay between October 6 and October 15 perhaps was the uncertainty of where Van Oosterum was or would be to receive the letter and indicate forwarding to Mr. Timmers

The cover was opened and resealed by the NEI censor, the sealing label reading "Opened by Censor" in Dutch (Geopend door Censuur) and in Malay (Diboeka Oleh Censuur)

The last date is the single line purple "16 Oct. 1941". If this is the J.C.J.L. Tandjong Perak receiving date, one day for censoring and transit from Batavia to Soerabaja seems short. If it is the receiving date it testifies to the high efficiency of the Postal system in the Netherlands East Indies, where air mail between Batavia and Soerabaja was delivered over-

night.

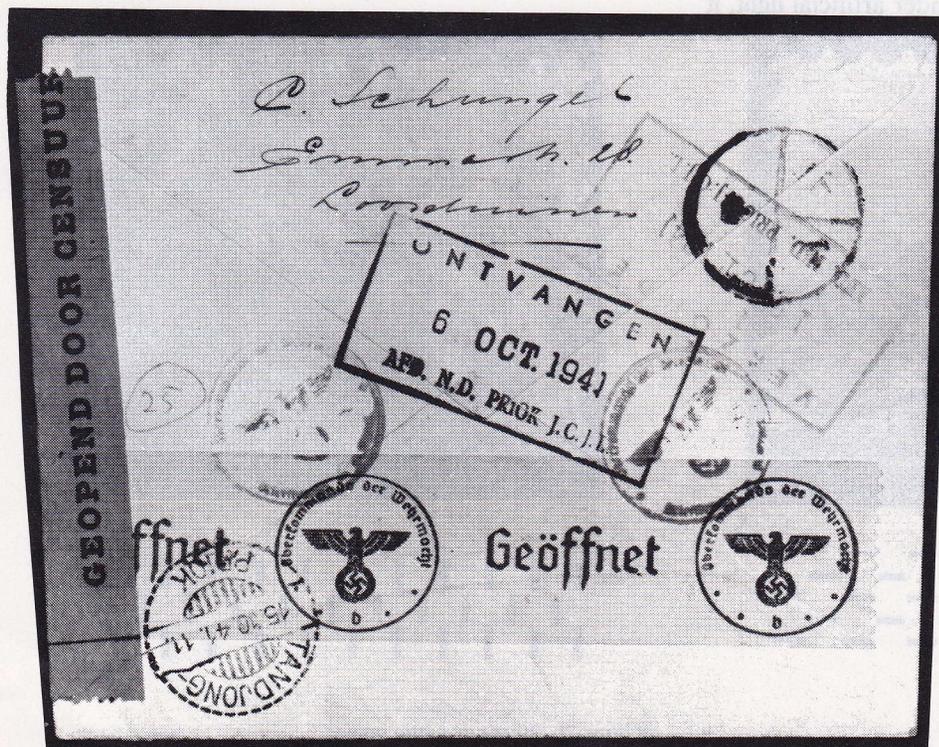
My friend continues: "When I was stationed in Manila in 1940-41 the Netherlands East Indies Airways (K.N.I.L.M.) maintained every two weeks a charter flight between Batavia and Manila connecting with the Pan American Airway Clippers to San Francisco. My office were agents for the Dutch Airlines. In those days I received hundreds of similar letters from the Netherlands by air mail via the USA to Manila addressed to the J.C.J.L. in Manila. These were all re-forwarded by handing them to the pilot of the next plane to Java to pass to the K.N.I.L.M. office in Batavia and from there to the ultimate addresses".

As to arrangements for mail from the Netherlands Indies to the Netherlands during this time when mail was not officially allowed, the operation was similar. People who had connections with the J.C.J.L. offices or ship's personnel used the route via Shanghai where their mail was deposited in the Chinese Post Office for onward transmission to the Netherlands and without their real return addresses. A similar arrangement existed via Manila where the K.N.I.L.M. pilots carried letters to our J.C.J.L. Manila office. From there we forwarded them through the Philippine Post Office via the USA. Mostly we even paid for the postage as a favor to those living in Java."

All this ended with the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor on December 8, 1941 in the Far East.

And so an interesting story ends of a war time cover and of human ingenuity to circumvent 'forbidden' communication. I keep looking for additional letters of this type either via Shanghai or Manila but none have turned up nor have any been reported. Can any reader supply additional information and/or covers for further documentation?

*(Afterword: The Editor pro-tem will gladly receive and forward any further information readers may have. It remains still somewhat of a mystery how the Postal Service in the Netherlands East Indies managed to deliver these letters with nothing to go on but a name. There must have been several hundreds of thousands of families with Dutch-sounding names, spread over the entire former colony. Perhaps the great majority of these letters were never delivered and subsequently destroyed? This might explain the apparent extreme scarcity of this kind of cover.)*



# PAPER VARIETIES IN THE NETHERLANDS 1899-1921 (FUR COLLAR) ISSUE

by Willem A. van Zandhoven

In the January 1962 issue of *Philatelie* P.B. Versteeg had some information about the varieties of paper used for this first issue of Queen Wilhelmina after she was inaugurated in 1898. With two exceptions, the 4 1/2 and the 17 1/2 cent, the stamps are inexpensive so that a little specialization won't break the bank for you. It is even possible that the color variations which in this long-lived set are abundant will automatically appear once you concentrate on the paper differences (NVPH Nos. 56-76; Scott Nos. 61-82, see also Figure 1).



Figure 1. The Fur Collar issue

Mr. Versteeg has five different varieties of paper, four of which he is able to "date", based on the cancellations on the used stamps. His fifth variety was a grayish, somewhat rough paper he found only on the 3 cent stamp, but he did not – perhaps could not – give a cancellation date for the copy(ies) he had.

Being somewhat concerned with the chronology of this set, I am very pleased to note that the NVPH gives the years in which the various stamps appeared. So far, though, the catalogue does not distinguish between the 5 cent rose and the 5 cent bright red, which are really two separate stamps. When it was found that, especially under artificial light, it

was very difficult to distinguish between the 3 cent orange and the 5 cent rose, the color of the latter was changed to bright red. In other words, it was a color change like that in the 25 cent Surinam King William III from ultramarine (No. 10a; Scott No. 11) to greenish blue (No. 10; Scott also No. 10), which the NVPH does honor with an "a" number.

Although Mr. Versteeg describes his varieties of paper in a certain sequence I will not follow him faithfully, since I think it is better to give the earlier used varieties before the later ones (which he does not do so). So, we get the following:

- Type 1 used from 1900 to 1908; thin paper, somewhat transparent, oily (the picture is sometimes visible from the back)
- Type 2 used from 1900 to 1911; thin smooth paper
- Type 3 used from 1908 to 1920; fairly thick paper, without differences in transparency (somewhat rough of surface)
- Type 4a used from 1909 to 1921; wove paper, vertical
- Type 4b used from 1912 to 1920; wove paper, horizontal

The last two types may have been used together, depending on the way the sheets were cut from the paper roll. Since the two-color stamps were printed in sheets of 100 (the one-color stamps were printed in sheets of 200, 20 horizontal rows of 10), it is possible that 'remainders' from the roll were used for the smaller sheets, showing a different wove pattern (see also Figure 2).

Finally, the wove paper also occurs in thick and thin (or thicker and thinner) batches.

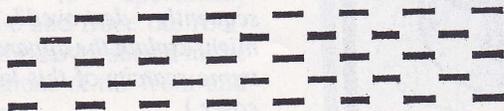
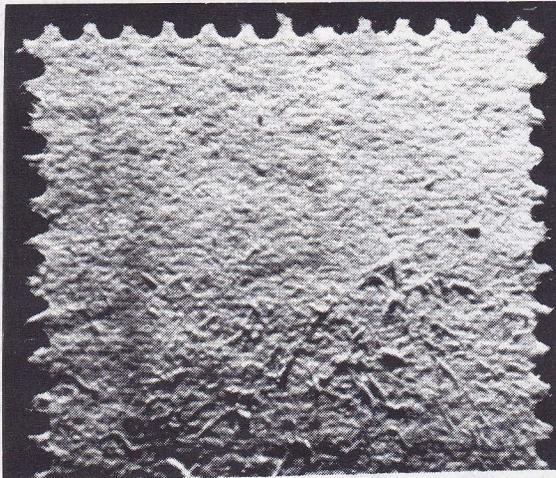


Figure 2a. Horizontal wove paper

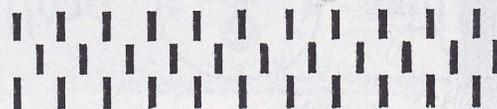
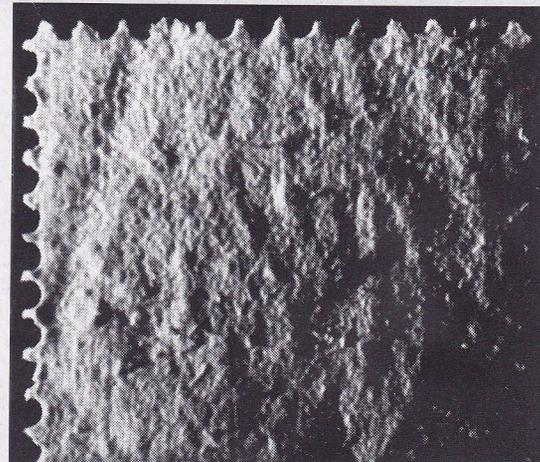


Figure 2b. Vertical wove paper

Following is a Table, in which all these varieties are given,  
as Mr. Versteeg found them:

	Paper Varieties					
	1	2	3	4a	4b	5
3 ct orange	x	x				
3 ct green (1901)	x			x	x	x
4 ct brown lilac (1921)					x	
4 1/2 ct violet (1919)					x	
5 ct rose and bright red	x	x	x	x	x	
7 1/2 ct brown	x	x	x	x	x	
10 ct gray	x	x	x	x	x	
12 1/2 ct blue	x	x		x	x	
15 ct brown	x	x		x	x	
15 ct blue and carmine (1908)	x		x	x	x	
17 1/2 ct violet	x					
17 1/2 ct ultramarine and blue			x	x	x	
20 ct green	x	x	x	x	x	
20 ct olive green and gray			x	x	x	
22 1/2 ct brown and olive green	x			x	x	
25 ct carmine and blue	x	x	x	x	x	
30 ct lilac and violet brown (1917)			x	x	x	
40 ct green and orange (1920)			x	x	x	
50 ct bronze green and red brown	x	x		x		
50 ct gray and violet (1914)			x	x	x	
60 ct olive green and green (1920)				x	x	

Of course, if any of our members is going to do some specializing on these stamps, the Editor will be only too glad to give him/her space to let us all know where the Table can be expanded (with dates, please). It would also be very nice to receive some more information on paper variety No. 5, the rare, grayish, somewhat rough paper, I don't think, however, that the Editor is going to hold his breath. Let's surprise him.