

# NETHERLANDS PHILATELY



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# ASN P



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# Netherlands Philately

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PHILATELY

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## From the Editor:

When you read this the new year should be well on its way, but I feel I still have time to wish you all the best and may your philatelic interests be a big part of it. We have such a wonderful hobby; we are never done. Some people might find this discouraging, but I find it a big plus. As readers of this publication we are exposed to new subjects all the time. This of course can set us on a path we hadn't traveled before and it could open a whole new collecting interest. If you want to stick with the areas you have been collecting for a long time, there are always new finds, maybe better finds. If you have a computer and are hooked up to the Internet you really should be able to expand your collection. It is amazing what is out there and all of this can be done just from your home. Practically everything I find for my collection(s) these days I get through Ebay.

I helps that I am not a collector of the really rare (and expensive) material; that is something you most likely have to find in a traditional auction, or at the larger stamp shows. This of course brings me to AMPHILEX 2002 to be held from Friday August 30 through Tuesday September 3 in Amsterdam. With all the dealers present you should be able to find something there that will interest you and enhance your collection. And don't forget to join your fellow ASN P members for the day-trip on Wednesday September 4. As you have read in the Newsletters it promises to be quite a day. Several members have already decided to stay at Hotel Breukelen. Refer to the November 2001 ASN P Newsletter for more details.

To get back to the Internet for a moment. It has also a lot of very useful information on it. I just opened [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and typed in "Netherlands Philately". It resulted in more than 3,000 'hits'! I'm sure there is plenty among this that will be of direct interest to you. It is like having your own philatelic library right at your home.

*continued on page 37*

## Table of Contents

Railroad Stamps of the Netherlands.....	30	The Chinese Cyclical Calendar .....	47
Concentration Camps in the Netherlands during the 1940-1945 Occupation	38	The LUX Soap Cards of the Netherlands-Indies.....	50

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# Railroad Stamps of the Netherlands

by John Van Rysdam



## Introduction

The Dutch Railroad stamps, officially called "accountability stamps", are even in the mother country a neglected collection field. Although the Belgian "Parcelpost Train Stamps" are listed in Scott and other catalogs, the Dutch railroad stamps are not; not even in the Dutch "Speciale Catalogus".



Railroad stamps might not be postage stamps available in post offices but are nevertheless valid stamps to pay the mailing services for parcels (pakketten) and letters (brieven). The railroad stamps booklets correctly call them Frankkeerzegels (Postage Stamps)

Railroad stamps are not often seen at philatelic exhibits and little has been written about them in the philatelic press. The best philatelic reference for Railroad Stamps is "SPOOR EN POST" (Rail and Mail) which is still available from the ASNPN bookstore and library. It was published in 1979 by the Railroad Museum in Utrecht.

The best known collector and author of the Dutch Railroad stamps is the late Mr. G. W. A. de Veer who wrote about them extensively in the Maandblad of Aug/Sep. 1964. His

collection was acquired by the Spoorweg Museum in Utrecht, which by itself is worth a visit when in the Netherlands. It is located in the old Maliebaan Station.

As the collecting of railroad stamps is a fascinating part of philately it is hard to believe that not more people collect them and publish articles about them. As I said, the Belgian parcelpost stamps, the Swiss hotel stamps, the Back of the Book USA stamps are well known collecting subjects; so why not the Dutch railroad stamps?

This article only professes to introduce the railroad stamps to the ASNPN members; it will not go into all the perforations and varieties. Any one interested in this can find all in SPOOR EN POST.

## The Design

It is assumed that part of the design was taken from a



tile-tableau, which is still in its old place over the door of the First Class Waiting Room of the Haarlem train station. The designer was also influenced by the then fashionable JUGENDSTIL ornamental style with its leaf and branches similar to the German design stamps.



**The Stamps**

The Railroad stamps were used for two major purposes:  
 I: PARCELPOST MAIL (Pakketpost)  
 II: TRAIN LETTERS (Trein Brieven)

**I: PARCELPOST MAIL (Pakketpost)**

For parcel post the stamps were affixed to the Bills of Lading (Vrachtbrieven) and they paid for the railroad transportation services. The parcels were delivered to the Station or to affiliated collecting houses of VAN GEND & LOOS. The stamps could not be purchased at the post offices but only at railway stations and Van Gend & Loos offices. For this reason mint stamps are hard to find. As ownership and names of the railroads changed through the years several series and types were issued and printed by different printers.

**National Railroads**

A. JOH. ENSCHEDÉ & ZONEN 1913-1923

- Period:  
 A. 1913-1923  
 B. 1923  
 C. 1924-1934  
 D. 1934-1944

Printer:  
 Joh. Enschedé & Zonen, Haarlem  
 M. Lindenbaum & Co, Amsterdam  
 Joh. Enschedé & Zonen, Haarlem  
 Nederlandsche Speciaaldrukkerijen, Rotterdam

Although the basic design was maintained in all printings, the fonts used for the black denominations varied by printer.

Issues



Nederlandse Staatsspoorwegen  
 1914-1920  
 Colors:  
 Orange-Yellow for Railroad stations  
 Red for Van Gend & Loos



Hollandse IJzeren Spoorweg Mij. 1917-1920  
 Colors:  
 Violet for Railroad stations  
 Green for Van Gend & Loos



Nederlandsche Spoorwegen  
 1920-1923 First Printing  
 Colors:  
 Orange-Yellow for Railroad stations  
 Red for Van Gend & Loos

B. LINDENBAUM 1923

Colors:  
 Orange-Yellow for Railroad stations  
 Red for Van Gend & Loos

5 Cent.	10 Cent.	15 Cent.	20 Cent.	25 Cent.
30 Cent.	35 Cent.	40 Cent.	45 Cent.	50 Cent.
65 Cent.	80 Cent.	1 GLD.	1 1/2 GLD.	
2 GLD.	2 1/2 GLD.	3 GLD.		
1 GULDEN	2 GULDEN			

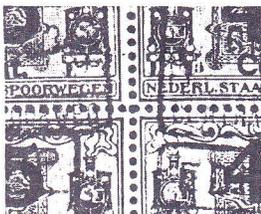
5 Cent.	10 Cent.	15 Cent.	20 Cent.	25 Cent.
30 Cent.	35 Cent.	40 Cent.	45 Cent.	
50 Cent.	1 GLD.	1 1/2 GLD.		
2 GLD.	2 1/2 GLD.	3 GLD.		

C. JOH. ENSCHEDÉ 1924-1934

Second Printing.

Colors: Orange-Yellow for Railroad stations  
Red for Van Gend & Loos

The second printing shows larger white margins between the stamps. The second printing itself can be subdivided in two periods, 1924-1930, and 1931-1934. The details are described in SPOOR EN POST.



First Enchedé Printing  
(1920-1923)



Second Enchedé Printing  
(1924-1934)

D. NEDERLANDSCHE SPECIAALDRUKKERIJEN  
1934-1944

Colors: Yellow to Brown-Orange for Railroad stations  
Pink to Dark Red for van Gend & Loos

Regional Railroads



OOSTER STOOMTRAM MAATSCHAPPIJ  
1922-1925

Colors: Orange-Yellow



NEDERLANDSCHE BUURTSPOORWEG MIJ.  
1927-1928

Colors: Orange-Yellow

The Lindenbaum issues of the Nederlandsche Spoorwegen stamps were overprinted by Lindenbaum as well as by Enschedé; they show the wording "Ooster Stoomtram Mij." either at the top or bottom.

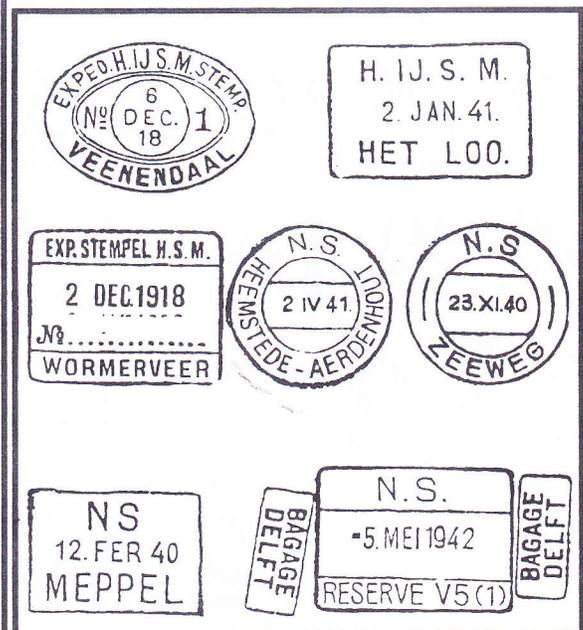
The Ooster Stoomtram Mij. operated in the eastern part of the province of Utrecht; it also had a line running from Driebergen-Station to Arnhem.

In 1927 the Ooster Stoomtram Mij. was taken over by the Nederlandsche Buurtspoorwegen Mij. which also had its own overprinted railroad stamps.

Cancellations:

Not only can one collect the various railroad stamps, the train cancels make for an interesting collecting subject as well.

Some Examples of train cancels



5	10	15	20	25
Cent	Cent	Cent	Cent	Cent
30	35	40	45	50
Cent	Cent	Cent	Cent	Cent
65	70	80	90	
Cent	Cent	Cent	Cent	
1	1 1/2	2		
GLD.	GLD.	GLD.		
	2 1/2	3		
	GLD	GLD.		
1	1 1/2	2		
GLD.	GLD.	GLD.		
	2 1/2	3		
	GLD.	GLD.		

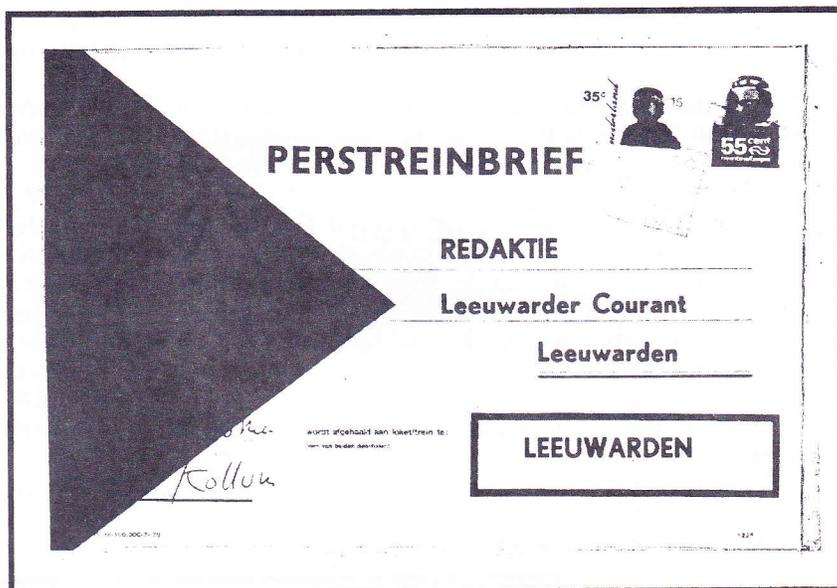
## II: Train Letters (Trein- en Persbrieven)

Although the Parcel post railroad stamps are no longer used since 1944, the mailing of Train Letters is still in use, at least for newspaper documents.

In order to speed up the delivery of letters and newspaper documents one could deliver the letters at the local Railroad station, franked with valid 1<sup>st</sup> class stamps and pay the special Train Service fee with a separate Railroad stamp.

Mail was sent by next available train and was picked up at the arrival railroad station by the Dutch postoffice and delivered to the addressee. The 1979 rate for this service was 55 cents for the railroad letter stamp; double for Sunday and Holiday deliveries.

The Persbrieven (Newspaper Mail) were mailed by Newspaper correspondents and photographers to their papers. These did not enter the postal stream but had to be picked up at the arrival station. This had to be indicated on the envelope by the notation "Afgehaald ....." (Picked up.....). Although the Postoffice did not perform any



duties, through its monopoly a valid stamp still had to be affixed to the letter anyway.

### Rates and Stamps used on Train Letters



<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Rates</u>	<u>Stamps Used</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1 Apr. 1924	10 c.	Regular 5 & 10 c. Trainstamps III. 1	To be placed on back.
1 May 1946	15 c.	New Design, III. 2	Press letters only.
7 Oct. 1951	15c.	III. 2	To be used on ALL trainletters. To be placed on front.
1 Mar. 1964	50 c.	As III. 3	Due to sharp protest, this rate was changed back to 15 c. six weeks later.
12 Apr. 1964	15 c.	As III. 3	Back to old rate.
1 Feb. 1965	25 c.	As III. 3	
1 July 1966	35 c.	As III. 3	During July 1966 stamps to be used were 25 c. + 2 x 5 c.; no 35 c. stamp available
31 July 1966	35 c.	As III. 3	A 35 c. stamp was issued.
1 Oct. 1967	45c.	As III. 3	
April 1970	45 c.	New design, III. 4	
1 May 1972	55 c.	New design, III. 5	

From the nineteen-seventies on, the use of train letters dropped dramatically. They were discontinued on 1 May 1979. For newspaper documents however, they were still allowed till a later date.

With the upcoming innovations of telephone, television and e-mail I doubt if there even is a use for the news media to use the press letters anymore.

A separate chapter is the use of Bus and Tram Letters which also had their own stamps to pay for the services. As the stamps used on these letters were mostly private labels issued by a particular Bus or Tram Company they are not considered Postage Stamps, although they are collected by the Cinderella collectors.

So, Elck Wat Wils (Each his own choice) as we say in the Netherlands.

Again, one can collect Train Stamps to his own liking. Follow the above history and try to find the stamps and stamps on letters or restrict yourself to a particular town or railroad line.

**References:**

- “Spoor en Post”, Nederlands Spoorwegmuseum, Utrecht 1979
- Mr. G.W.A. de Veer, “Nederlandsche Spoorwegzegels”, Philatelie, Aug 1964: 356-357; Sept 1964: 408-410
- Mr. W.S. da Costa, “Nog iets (nieuws) over het brievenvervoer per trein”, Philatelie, Oct 1965: 464-46
- Some illustrations from my own collection.
- Dr. A.M. Benders, “Railroad and Press Letters”, Netherlands Philately, v. 5, no. 1, Sept 1979: 2-6
- J.A.C. van Rijswijk, “Het Vervoer van Treinbrieven”, De Postzak, no. 133, Sept 1982: 213 - 256
- H. Vink, “Dutch Railways on stamps”, <http://web.inter.nl.net/hcc/H.Vink/stamps/dstamp0.htm>

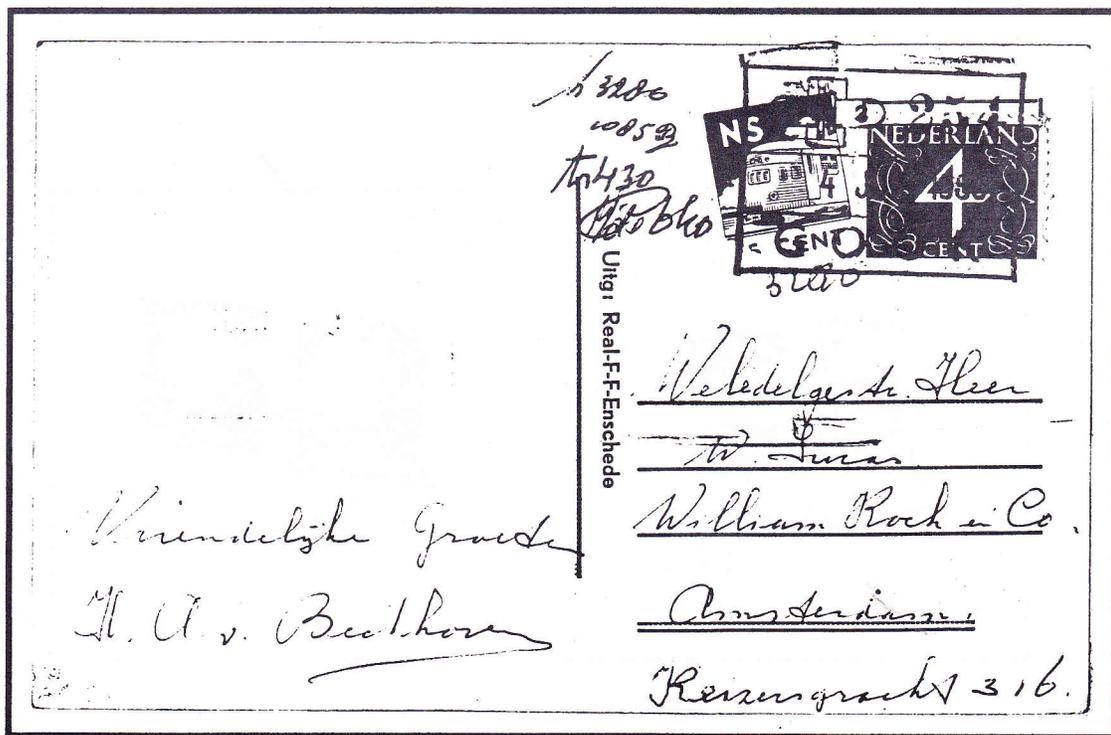
Illustrations of train letters



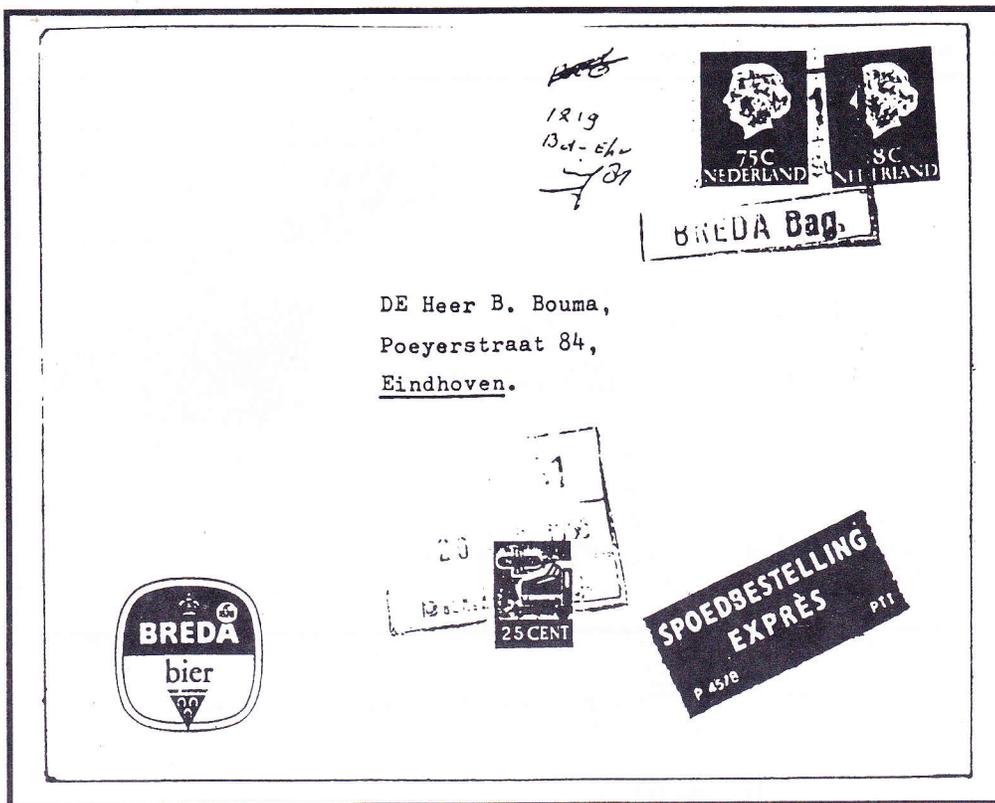
Examples of improper (on the front) and proper (on the back) placement of the train stamps.



Use of the 1964 despised and short lived 50 ct. train rate.



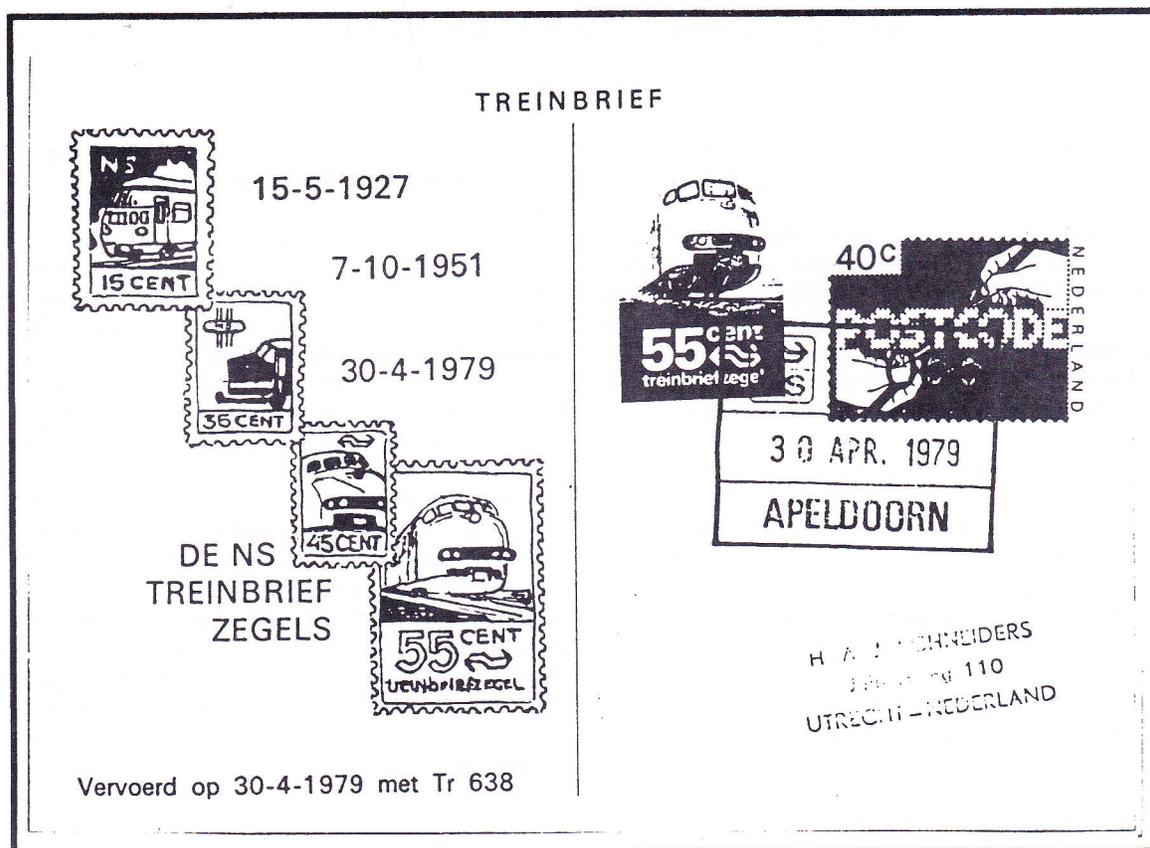
Usage of the 15 ct. train stamp.



Usage of the 25 ct. train stamp.



Usage of the 45 ct. train stamp.



Philatelic souvenir train letter showing illustrations of the various train stamps.  
 Mailed 30 Apr. 1979 by train from Apeldoorn to Utrecht.  
 This is a last day of usage of these trainletters.  
 It shows the 55 ct. valid trainletter rate for that date.

*Continued from Editorial page*

This issue sees the first installment of a rather unique article. It deals with the Dutch Concentration Camps during WWII. With all that's been going on in the world lately it seems somewhat timely to have a first person account of what these concentration camps looked like. I am sure that looking at some of this postal stationery must be hard for author Carel Witmond. I certainly appreciate all the hard work he put into the writing of this article. The other articles, by faithful contributor John Van Rysdam (Railroad Stamps of the Netherlands), Stuart

Leven/Wayne Menuz (The LUX cards of the Netherlands-Indies), and Harry Hartawan (The Chinese Cyclical Calendar) all point to lesser known philatelic subjects.

Enjoy the current issue; as always, you might not like what we offer in this issue but in another four months the subjects could be quite different.

Hans Kremer

## Concentration camps in the Netherlands during the 1940-1945 occupation.

by Carel Witmond

(Editor's Note: Our President, Kees Adema, had contact with Carel Witmond, and during one of their conversations Carel mentioned his collection of Dutch concentration camp stationery. During the second World War Carel was in prison for 7 months, and in various concentration camps for another 3 years. Kees asked him to write an article about this. What follows is a somewhat condensed version of Carel's contribution. Some of the harrowing stories have been left out, not because they weren't significant, but they were not directly of philatelic interest. I also have added some background information I downloaded from various Websites)

The Dutch Kramers dictionary defines a concentration camp as a closed-off area with barracks where undesirable persons or convicts are kept prisoner by the ruling regime. In our country (The Netherlands), I knew of the existence of six (such camps), but there were probably more. The ones I know of are Schoorl, Amersfoort, Vught, Ommen, Westerbork, and 't Zand. In addition, there were camps for hostages, such as Haren and St. Michielgestel (all these names refer to cities/villages in the Netherlands).

Durchgangslager (German for transit camp) Schoorl.  
Camp Schoorl was situated in the dunes, about 40 km

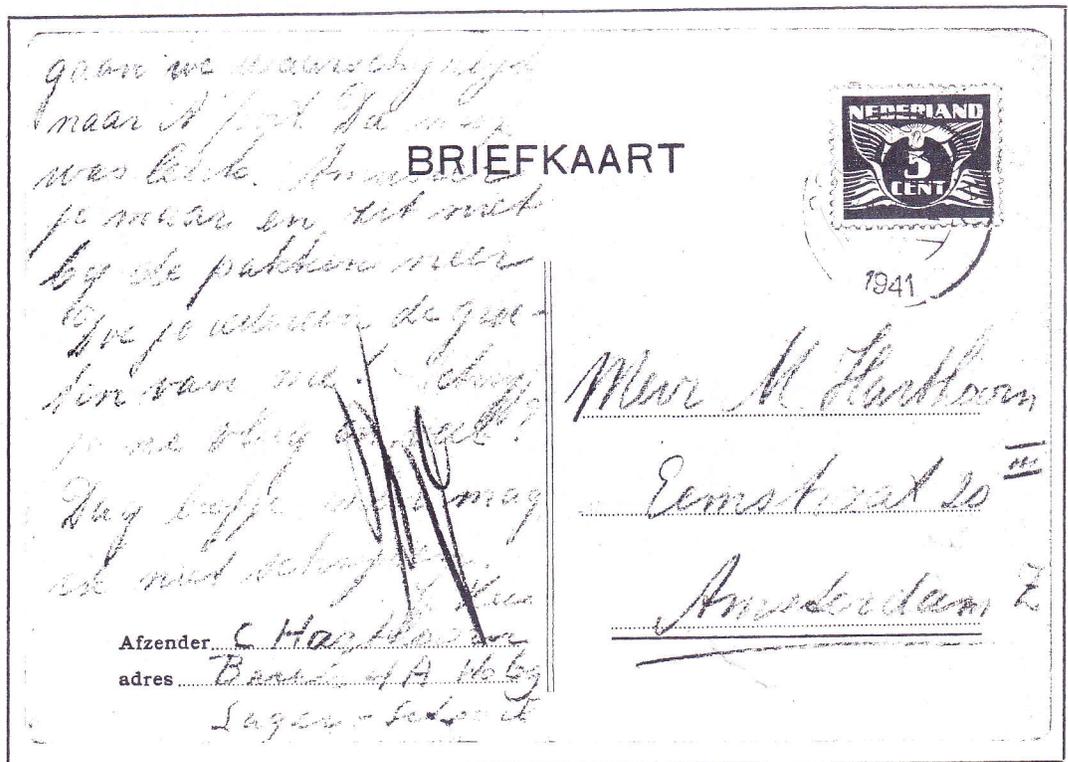
NW of Amsterdam, and was originally built in the Fall of 1939 as a garrison for the Dutch Army, which was mobilized (called to arms) in August of 1939. The first army units moved into the camp around the end of November 1939. All were reserves, and none have participated in any war action.

After the conclusion of the short (at least for the Netherlands) war, the occupier interned citizens from the allies, such as France, Belgium and England, in camp Schoorl. At some later time, hostages from Sommelsdijk and KLM (Royal

Dutch Airlines) pilots were added. The latter groups of internees suffered from intense boredom. They kept themselves busy with gymnastics.

Early 1941, the camp became a transit camp for Jews from Amsterdam who were captured during "razzia's" (round-ups). These razzia's were the cause for the well-known "February strike", which took place on the 25th of that month in 1941. This strike was initiated by the communists, and supported first by the population of Amsterdam and later by, among others, the residents of the Zaanstreek (area between Amsterdam and Alkmaar). During and after the strike, many people, and especially the leaders, were arrested and locked-up in Schoorl. These political prisoners were treated more harshly by the Nazi's. They were ordered to dig holes, use the sand to fill buckets that had to be carried to the other side of the camp, where it was used to fill a hole dug there. This senseless work had to be done all day. The communists especially were badly treated; they had to endure occasional beatings and malicious baiting. Those who were Jewish and communist had to endure the most.

When the S.S. (Sicherheits Stufel, German security service) got word that camp Schoorl would be closed, they



A postcard from Cornelis (Kees) Harthoorn to his wife in Amsterdam, dated 27th August, 1941. Cornelis was a known communist and had been a member of the Internationale Brigade who fought against Franco's army in Spain. Although the atmosphere in camp Schoorl was more relaxed than in German camps, letters were censored as is shown here by the scribbled initials.

prepared the prisoners for the situation in Amersfoort. This was done with drills that went on for hours. Much practice went in taking the cap off and putting it back on, "mützen ab" and "mützen auf", which had to happen at once.

Other drills were "augen gerade aus" (look straight ahead), "augen rechts" (look to the right), and "die augen links" (look left).

Camp Schoorl was abandoned towards the end of October 1941, and the prisoners were transported to the "Polizeiliches Durchgangslager Amersfoort" (police transit camp). There is no data that anyone died in camp Schoorl.

The camp was torn down in 1949. At some later point in time, Staatsbosbeheer (the National Forestry Department) turned the area into a visitors and information center, named "Het Zandspoor" (the sandy trail).

Among the group of prisoners who joined camp Schoorl in 1941, there were several leaders of the Anti-Revolutionary Party and the Christian National League. In July the mayor of Maassluis, three local clergymen and sixteen citizens were taken as hostages and sent to Schoorl, because they had organized a welcoming committee for a returned political prisoner. A similar thing happened in Rijnsburg after the population had celebrated the Queen's birthday.

Towards the end of October 1941 camp Schoorl was closed and all prisoners were transported to P(olizeiliches) D(urchgangslager) A(MERSFOORT)\*.

Polizeiliches Durchgangslager Amersfoort (PDA)

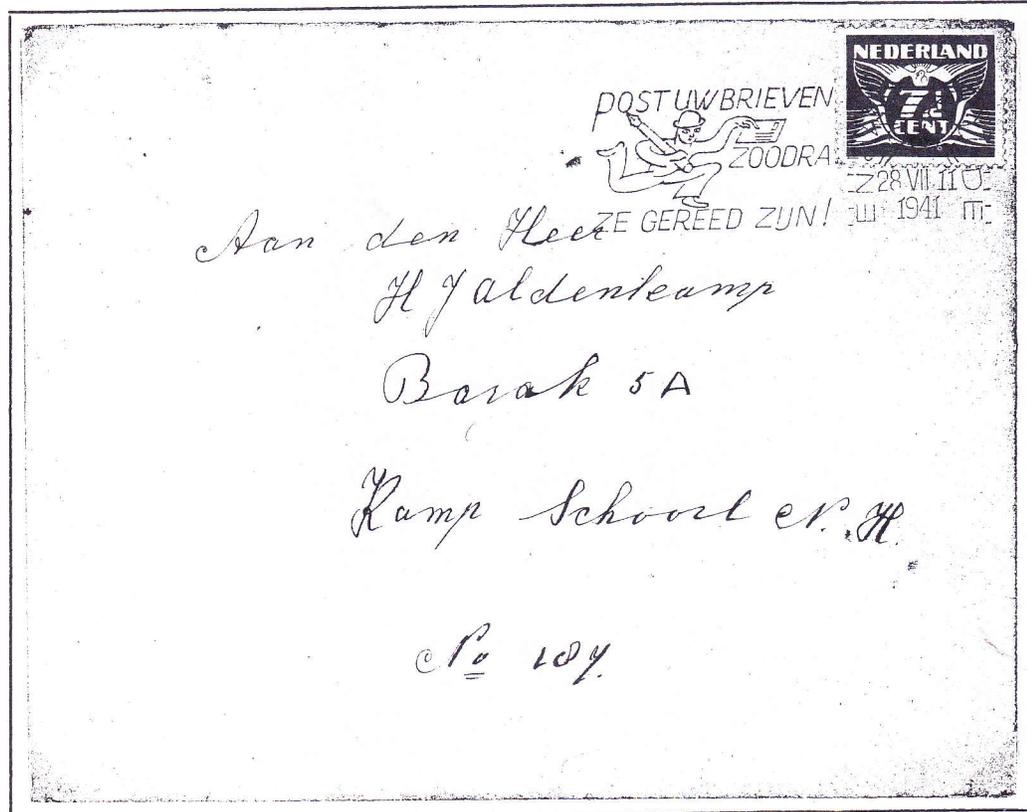
Like Schoorl, Camp Amersfoort started off as a barracks camp built in 1939 for the Dutch army. Originally it was built for only 600 people. On 18th August 1941 the German authorities converted it into a transit-camp for political prisoners, under the command of the S(icherheits) D(ienst). During 1942 ten additional barracks were built. The average number of prisoners was 4,000, but over a period of four years more than 35,000 people passed through this camp.

When the prisoners first arrived they had to hand over all their possessions. The schreibstube recorded everything brought in. You received a number and a triangular piece of cloth; red for political prisoners and people of the resistance, black for anti-socials, green for criminals, purple for Jehovah witnesses, pink for homosexuals. Jews received two pieces of yellow triangular cloth, with which they had to form a star of David.

The prisoners had to get up at 5 a.m, with roll-call at 6; during the winter it was an hour later. Roll-call was twice a day, once in the morning and once in the evening. The prisoners had to line up perfectly and follow orders like 'mützen ab' promptly. Sometime roll-call was followed by drills. After roll-call you had to collect your

pan and spoon to get your daily soup. Apart from the soup the prisoners received a small piece of bread, and once a week a small slice of margarine and sometimes a bit of jam, cheese, or sausage.

After June 1943 the camp was mainly used as a transit camp for men who were caught because they had tried to evade the "Arbeitseinsatz" which was forced labor in Germany. They too were sent to Germany. Mid April 1945 the camp was handed over to the Red Cross. Between August 1941 and April 1945 about 230 prisoner's death were attributed to the poor living circumstances

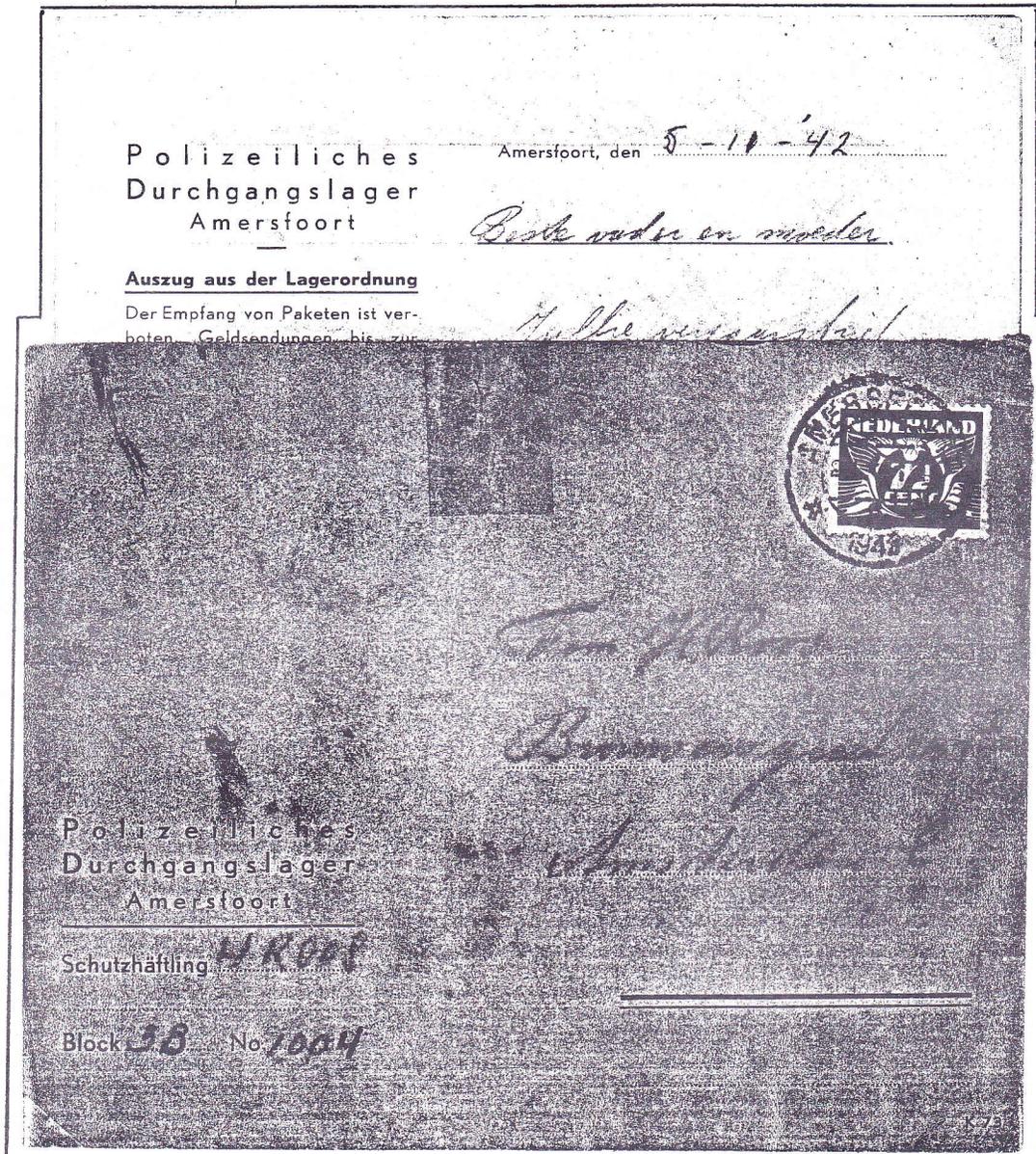


Letter from Enschede, dated 28 July 1941. Contrary to the previous postcard from the camp, this letter to the camp does not carry censor marks.

at the camp. In addition, 428 people were executed.

Members (like myself) of the illegal Parool group (the Parool was an illegal publication; see [www.paroolillegaal.nl](http://www.paroolillegaal.nl)) were also brought to Amersfoort. We got our clothes back on December 12, 1942 and were transported to the Gansstreet in Utrecht where the trial took place. Twenty two out of twenty three were given a death sentence; I was one of them. Ultimately on February 5, 1943 13 were executed, 4 received 15 year in a correctional institution, and 6 were "abgetrent", which meant life in a concentration camp. December 23, 1942 we were returned to Amersfoort.

(An excellent Website is: [www.kampamersfoort.nl](http://www.kampamersfoort.nl))



Henk Roos was one of the defendants in the process against the printers and distributors of the illegal newspaper "Het Parool" in December 1942. After detainment in Amsterdam, the so-called 'Oranje Hotel' at Scheveningen and camp Amersfoort, he was convicted. He wrote this letter on 5th November 1942. Although Amersfoort was a Dutch camp, all stationery was printed in German.

Personal details of all new prisoners arriving in camp Amersfoort were recorded in the so-called "Schreibstube" (camp office). After handing over their belongings, they received camp clothing, a number and a colored triangle, which had to be sewn onto their camp clothing to indicate the class of prisoners they belonged. After that they were given a stenciled form to send to their closest relative, giving details about their imprisonment.

POLIZEL-DÜRGANGSLAGER Amersfoort, den 19/7

AMERSFOORT

An: *fam. van Soest*

In: *1<sup>e</sup> Hugo de Groote 28<sup>II</sup> Amsterdam*

Ich sitze hier ein.

Meine Anschrift ist: Schutzhäftling:  
Nr. *459*. Block *II D*. Polizeidurchgangslager - Amersfoort.

Für mich gelten folgende Bestimmungen:

Ich darf in Monat einen Brief schreiben und empfangen.  
Der Empfang von Paketen ist verboten.  
Geldsendungen bis zur Höhe von monatlich FL. 20.- sind erlaubt und zwar durch Postwechsel.  
Sämtliche Schreiben sind an mich persönlich zu richten.  
Füge *Rückporto bei*, damit keine Verzögerung eintritt.  
Anfragen an die Kommandantur des Lagers sind zwecklos und werden nicht beantwortet.

Form sent by Arie van Soest to his relatives in Amsterdam, dated 19th July 1942. He had been one of the defendants in the earlier mentioned 'Parool-process'.



Although Henk Roos was imprisoned in camp Amersfoort, he spent a short while at the court-house in Utrecht as a defendant in the so-called 'Parool-case' (See previous letter). It was just during this time this letter arrived. The camp authorities did not bother to forward it to Utrecht, but wrote a short message in red pencil on the cover: "nicht mehr hier" (not here anymore) and placed three handstamps "Zurück" (Return). The letter was not censored and was sent by ordinary mail. Apart from the current advertising postmark for the National Lottery, there is the arrival stamp of Amersfoort, dated 18th December 1942.

#### Concentration camp Vught

Vught officially was called Konzentrationslager-KL Herzogenbosch (Concentration Camp 'sHertogenbosch). Building the camp started in the spring of 1942. It was supposed to be a model concentration camp. It was supervised by the S.S. whose leader was Himmler. The first inmates (I was one of them) arrived on 13 January 1943, although the buildings were not finished. We came from concentration camp Amersfoort where we had been badly mistreated. The evidence was in the condition we were in when we arrived. What awaited us was an even worse nightmare. The first Jewish prisoners, textile and diamond workers, arrived three days later. They had been housed in

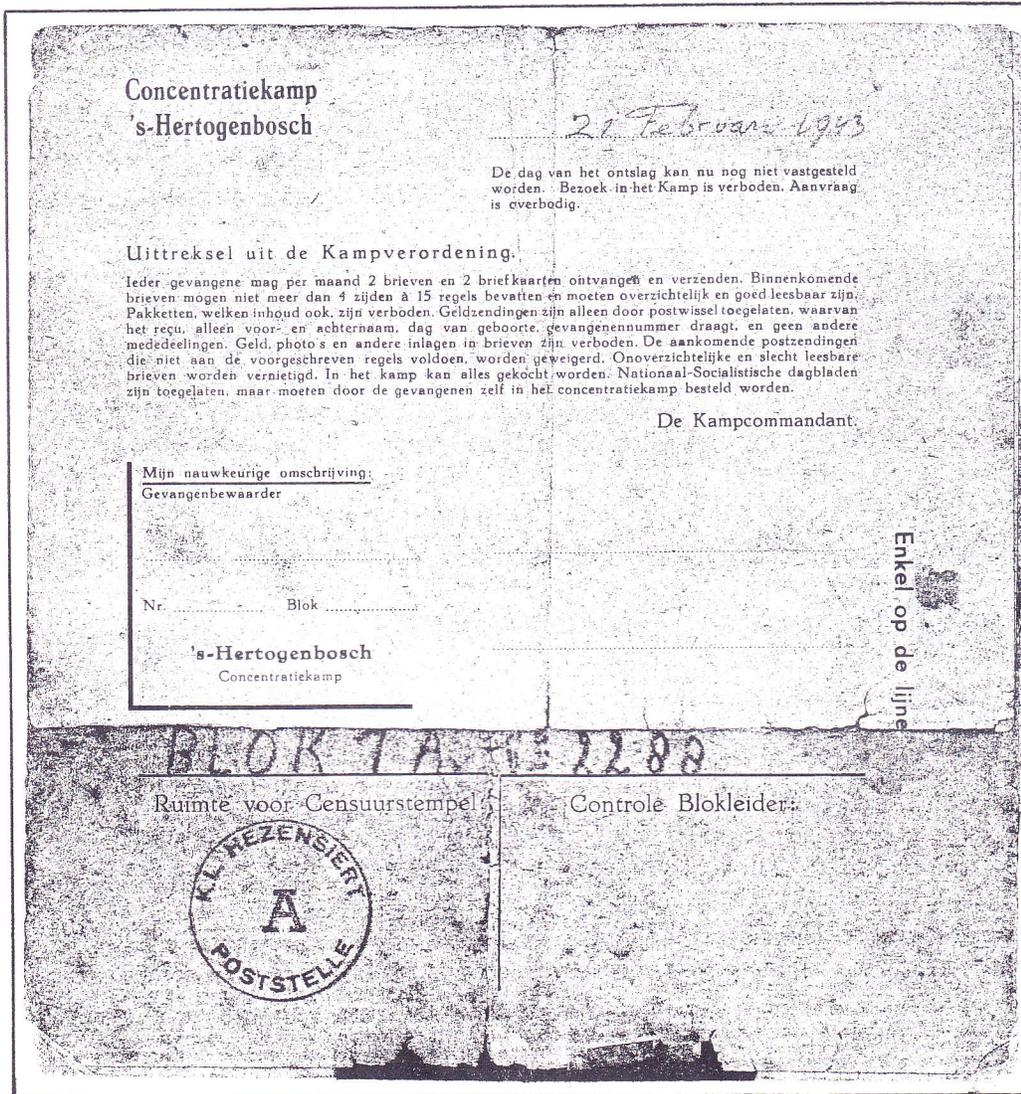
the Hollandsche Schouwburg in Amsterdam.

February 4, 1943 was a sad day for the members of the Parool-group. We said farewell to our friends who had been given the death sentence. After the liberation we found out that they were executed on February 5, 1943. They were later re-buried at the Honorary Cemetery in Overveen. During January-April, 1945 209 prisoners died.

Originally, Vught was divided into two sections. The first section, JDL - Judendurchgangslager (Transit Camp for Jews), was designed to house Jewish inmates before they were deported to Poland. These transfers were carried out in two stages. First they were moved from Vught to

Westerbork. Next, they were sent from Westerbork to either the extermination camp of Auschwitz/Birkenau or Sobibor. Approximately twelve thousand Jews including two thousand children under the age of sixteen passed through Vught to either Westerbork or, as in two instances, directly to Poland. The transfer of Jewish prisoners to Westerbork hardly ever created panic. Because of separation from father or mother children often felt deserted though. Treatment in Vught had been barbaric. Many who were transferred thought that they would stay permanently in Westerbork. That in itself was a consolation of sorts. They did not realize that Westerbork was but a portal, a holding place prior to deportation and ultimate extermination in either Birkenau or Sobibor.

drawn from the SS. Food was nearly non-existent. It basically consisted of warm water with some carrots or sauerkraut floating on the surface. The SS guards tortured the prisoners with incredible cruelty often beating them to death. Several prisoners were brutalized with a club wrapped with barbed wire. SS men often provoked their dogs to attack the prisoners. Several former inmates gave testimony how attacks by dogs had left them with horribly inflicted wounds, including wounds to the genitals. Hundreds of Dutch and Belgian prisoners were executed by firing squad in a place called De IJzeren Man (The Iron Man). This place was located approximately half a mile outside camp perimeter.



Letter dated 21st February 1943. The camp regulations are printed in Dutch. The circular censor mark reads erroneously; "K.L. HEZENSIERT" and should read "K.L. H(erzogenbusch) ZENSIERT".

Two more sections were added in May and August 1943 respectively. In May Frauenkonzentrations lager, FKL (Women's Concentration Camp) and Polizeiliches Durchgangslager, PDL (Police Transit Camp) were added. The latter were detained as hostages. Many were shot by firing squad in retaliation for acts of sabotage committed by underground fighters or partisans.

Like most other Nazi concentration camps Vught too had its own gallows and crematorium.

Seven hundred and forty seven prisoners, among which many Jews, perished in Vught between 1943 and 1944. In September 1943, the gallows were used for the executions of twenty Belgian prisoners. There were several convoys sent directly from Vught to major camps located in Germany and Poland. Most Jewish prisoners were deported via

The second section of Vught served as Schutzhaftlager (Security Camp). This section received Dutch as well as Belgian political prisoners, both men and women. Unlike Westerbork and Ommen, the guards were exclusively

Westerbork. For instance, the most notorious of all transports that left Vught for Westerbork took place on 5 June 1943. Its ultimate destination was the extermination center at Sobibor. It consisted of twelve hundred and sixty-

six children under the age of sixteen. More deportation followed. The ghastly transports brought adult Jews, sometimes whole families, to death camps in eastern Poland in November 1943 and June 1944. In July 1944, as Allied forces approached, the number of executions increased dramatically.

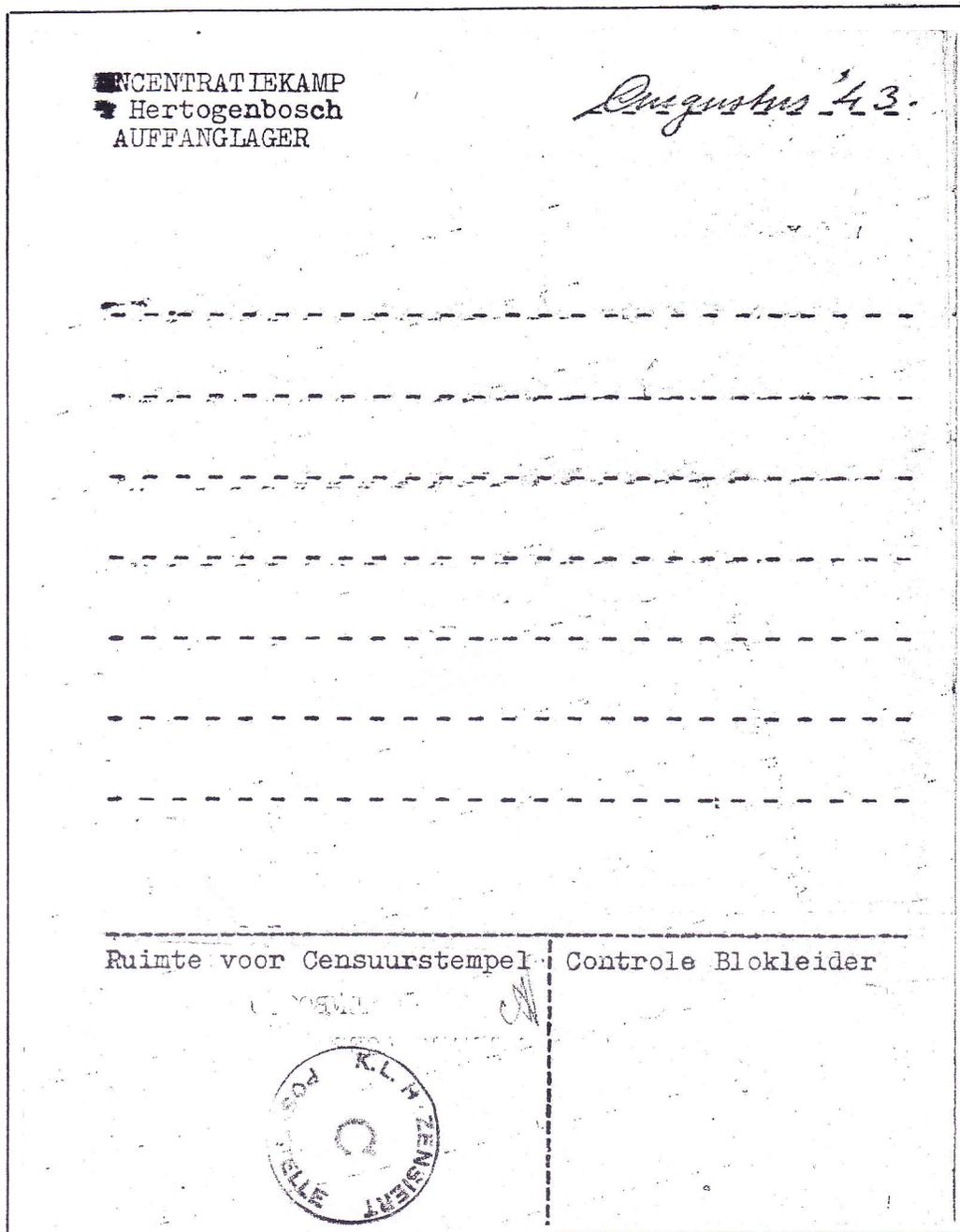
The camp consisted of three sections. Two for male and female prisoners respectively, and one for Jews in transit. The stone barracks had been built by Dutch contractors.



Letter dated 29th March 1943. The camp regulations are now in German. The faulty censor mark was still in use.

In the summer of 1943 the situation had somewhat improved. It now had a field hospital and safe drinking water. Some prisoners were sent to work at the Philips

factory. They were the lucky ones. Not only could they work indoors, but they also got better meals from the Philips kitchen.



*A similarly improvised letter from the Jewish section, dated August 1943. The heading is bilingual: "CONCENTRATIEKAMP 's Hertogenbosch AUFFANGLAGER". The faulty censormark is corrected by removing the letter "E". It now reads correctly: "K.L.H(erzogenbusch) ZENSIERT"*

Concentratiekamp  
's-Hertogenbosch

12 September 1943

De dag van het ontslag kan nu nog niet vastgesteld worden. Bezoek in het Kamp is verboden. Aanvraag is overbodig.

Uittreksel uit de Kampverordening.

Ieder gevangene mag per maand 2 brieven of 2 briefkaarten ontvangen en verzenden. Binnenkomende brieven mogen niet meer dan 4 zijden à 15 regels bevatten en moeten overzichtelijk en goed leesbaar zijn. Nummer van den gevangene moet in den linkerbovenhoek van de enveloppe vermeld worden. Geldzendingen zijn alleen door postwissel toegelaten, waarvan het reçu, alleen voor- en achternaam, dag van geboorte, gevangenennummer draagt, en geen andere mededeelingen. Geld, photo's en andere inlagen in brieven zijn verboden. De aankomende postzendingen die niet aan de voorgeschreven regels voldoen, worden geweigerd. Onoverzichtelijke en slecht leesbare brieven worden vernietigd. In het kamp kan alles gekocht worden. Nationaal-Socialistische dagbladen zijn toegelaten, maar moeten door de gevangenen zelf in het concentratiekamp besteld worden.

De Kampcommandant.

*grandioze vacantie Londen, hi? Het middag-  
ste, is hier wel goed, maar ik heb wat last van*

Enkel op 0

10 October 1943

Der Tag der Entlassung kann jetzt noch nicht angegeben werden. Besuche im Lager sind verboten. Anträge sind zwecklos.

Auszug aus der Lagerordnung:

Jeder Häftling darf im Monat 2 Briefe oder Postkarten empfangen und abgeben. Ein eingehende Briefe dürfen nicht mehr als 4 Seiten à 15 Zeilen enthalten und müssen übersichtlich und gut lesbar sein. Geldsendungen sind nur durch Postanweisung zulässig, deren Abschnitt nur Vor-, Zuname, Geburtsort, Häftlingsnummer trägt, jedoch keinerlei Mitteilungen. Geld, Fotos und Bildereinschlagen in Briefen sind verboten. Die Annahme von Postsendungen, die den gestellten Anforderungen nicht entsprechen, wird verweigert. Unübersichtliche, schlecht lesbare Briefe werden vernichtet. Im Lager kann alles gekauft werden. Nationalsozialistische Zeitungen sind zugelassen, müssen aber vom Häftling selbst im Konzentrationslager bestellt werden. Lebensmittelpakete dürfen zu jeder Zeit und in jeder Menge empfangen werden.

Der Lagerkommandant.

*Liefdes Mien  
Alleen de hardelijke gedru  
en velen noemen voor jou een  
kleiner schied. Mien hoe goed  
het jou? Met mij goed het goed  
hoort! Nu Mien voor nu Mien*

Two letters dated 12th September and 10th October 1943 respectively.  
Top: The type with the camp regulations in Dutch. The text has been altered. Below the type with regulations in German and printed in Gothic letters. No name of the camp in the heading.

To be continued

## The Chinese Cyclical Calendar

*by Harry Hartawan*

甲子 chia-tzŭ	1804 1864 1924 1984	甲午 chia-wu	1774 1834 1894 1954
乙丑 i-ch'ou	1805 1865 1925 1985	乙未 i-wei	1775 1835 1895 1955
丙寅 ping-yin	1806 1866 1926 1986	丙申 ping-shên	1776 1836 1896 1956
丁卯 ting-mao	1807 1867 1927 1987	丁酉 ting-yu	1777 1837 1897 1957
戊辰 wu-ch'ên	1808 1868 1928 1988	戊戌 wu-hsü	1778 1838 1898 1958
己巳 chi-ssŭ	1809 1869 1929 1989	己亥 chi-hai	1779 1839 1899 1959
庚午 kêng-wu	1810 1870 1930 1990	庚子 kêng-tzŭ	1780 1840 1900 1960
辛未 hsín-wei	1811 1871 1931 1991	辛丑 hsín-ch'ou	1781 1841 1901 1961
壬申 jên-shên	1812 1872 1932 1992	壬寅 jên-yin	1782 1842 1902 1962
癸酉 k'ui-yu	1813 1873 1933 1993	癸卯 k'ui-mao	1783 1843 1903 1963
甲戌 chia-hsü	1814 1874 1934 1994	甲辰 chia-ch'ên	1784 1844 1904 1964
乙亥 i-hai	1815 1875 1935 1995	乙巳 i-ssŭ	1785 1845 1905 1965
丙子 ping-tzŭ	1816 1876 1936 1996	丙午 ping-wu	1786 1846 1906 1966
丁丑 ting-ch'ou	1817 1877 1937 1997	丁未 ting-wei	1787 1847 1907 1967
戊寅 wu-ying	1818 1878 1938 1998	戊申 wu-shên	1788 1848 1908 1968
己卯 chi-mao	1819 1879 1939 1999	己酉 chi-yu	1789 1849 1909 1969
庚辰 kêng-ch'ên	1820 1880 1940 2000	庚戌 kêng-hsü	1790 1850 1910 1970
辛巳 hsín-ssŭ	1821 1881 1941 2001	辛亥 hsín-hai	1791 1851 1911 1971
壬午 jên-wu	1822 1882 1942 2002	壬子 jên-tzŭ	1792 1852 1912 1972
癸未 k'ui-wei	1823 1883 1943 2003	癸丑 k'ui-ch'ou	1793 1853 1913 1973
甲申 chia-shên	1824 1884 1944 2004	甲寅 chia-yin	1794 1854 1914 1974
乙酉 i-yu	1825 1885 1945 2005	乙卯 i-mao	1795 1855 1915 1975
丙戌 ping-hsü	1826 1886 1946 2006	丙辰 ping-ch'ên	1796 1856 1916 1976
丁亥 ting-hai	1827 1887 1947 2007	丁巳 ting-ssŭ	1797 1857 1917 1977
戊子 wu-tzŭ	1828 1888 1948 2008	戊午 wu-wu	1798 1858 1918 1978
己丑 chi-ch'ou	1829 1889 1949 2009	己未 chi-wei	1799 1859 1919 1979
庚寅 kêng-yin	1830 1890 1950 2010	庚申 kêng-shên	1800 1860 1920 1980
辛卯 hsín-mao	1831 1891 1951 2011	辛酉 hsín-yu	1801 1861 1921 1981
壬辰 jên-ch'ên	1832 1892 1952 2012	壬戌 jên-shü	1802 1862 1922 1982
癸巳 k'ui-ssŭ	1833 1893 1953 2013	癸亥 k'ui-hai	1803 1863 1923 1983

*Fig. 1 The Chinese Cyclical Calendar*

A considerable number of Netherlands East Indies prestamp covers or wrappers can be found with only the name and place of the recipient, some numerals indicating the postage, as well as a postmark of the place of origin, sometimes with the words informing postage paid or postage due, but without any dates.

Tracing in which particular year such a cover or wrapper had been forwarded is in general nearly impossible. The periods of use of the postmark and the

postage rate are all the data we have for that cover or wrapper.

But because there were already plenty of Chinese in the various towns throughout the Netherlands East Indies who made use of the postal services for their communication, on such 'Chinese' covers as above the recipient's name, town and the date of the letter had been added with Chinese characters. The year of such a cover is then easily determined by reading these characters, though in written

script, with the help of the Chinese cyclical calendar (figure 1).

We can look up in manuals for the period of use of the particular postmark and for tables of the postal rates from which the period of validity of the rate can be found. Matching these two periods we can find the time span in which the cover or wrapper originates.

With the Chinese cyclical calendar being composed of a series of two characters indicating one particular year, these two characters can be found on the cover or wrapper with the help of the cyclical calendar table in the time span so derived. However, please note that the Chinese characters are always written in a column and from right to left. So turn the cover or wrapper sideways to read the Chinese characters.

Making the riddle a bit more complicated is the fact that the greater part of such 'Chinese covers' had been written for some reason or another with one character only for the year by the sender, i.e. the first of the possible two characters in combination, like the wrapper of figure 4 from Madiun, currently Madiun, in Central East Java and again to Rembang.

A suggestion is then that we first look for the character 月 which stands for month. The character preceding it is a modifier of the month. In this case it is 元 and the month becomes the first month of the lunar year. The dates were always written in a year-month-day sequence. The month is thus the key-word for finding the year. The character preceding the modifier is 壬. This particular

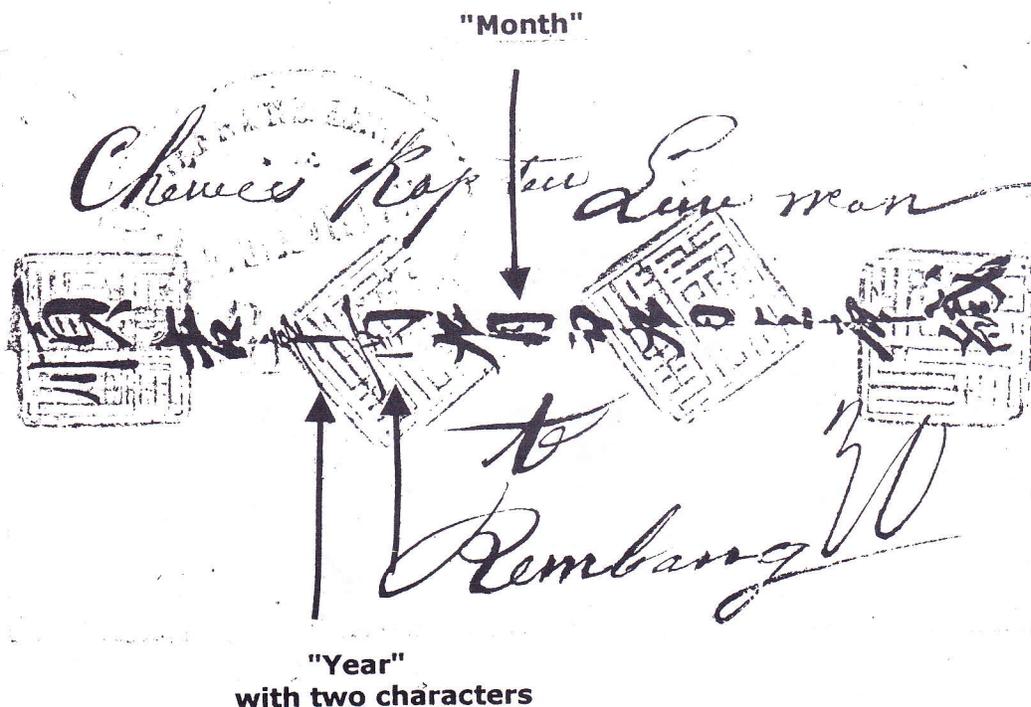


Fig. 2 A sealetter wrapper from Riouw, Sumatera, to Rembang, East Java, forwarded in 1861, postage due 30 cents.

An example hereof is the wrapper of figure 2. The details are:

1. Sent postage due from Riouw, east coast of Sumatera, to Rembang, a coastal town in East Java, roughly between Samarang and Sourabaya.
2. Postmark "ONGEFRANKEERD ZEE BRIEF RIOUW", red oval, size 40 x 50 mm, with a period of use from 1855 to 1863 (see figure 3).
3. Rate 30 which was 30 silver cents effective in the period 1860-1863 for sealetters.

These periods of use define a time span of 1855-1863. Looking up the Chinese years in this span of time in the cyclical calendar table we find the characters 辛酉 which correspond to the year 1861.

character is a part of the following possible combinations indicating the year: 壬寅 = 1842, 壬子 = 1852 and 壬戌 = 1862.



Fig. 3 Postmark ONGEFRANKEERD/ZEE BRIEF/RIOUW

This wrapper has furthermore the following details:

1. Rate 40 which was 40 *duiten*, prepaid, a rate effective for single letters between these towns during 1848-1859.
2. Postmark FRANCO RESID<sup>E</sup> MADION with posthorn, oval, size 40 x 50 mm, red, period of use 1848-1862 (see figure 5).

These periods of use give a time span of 1848-1859.

Matching this time span with any of the above three combinations of the Chinese characters, we find that it correlates to the year 1852.

Simple, even for non-Chinese readers, isn't it?



Fig. 5 Postmark FRANCO/RESID<sup>E</sup> MADON with posthorn

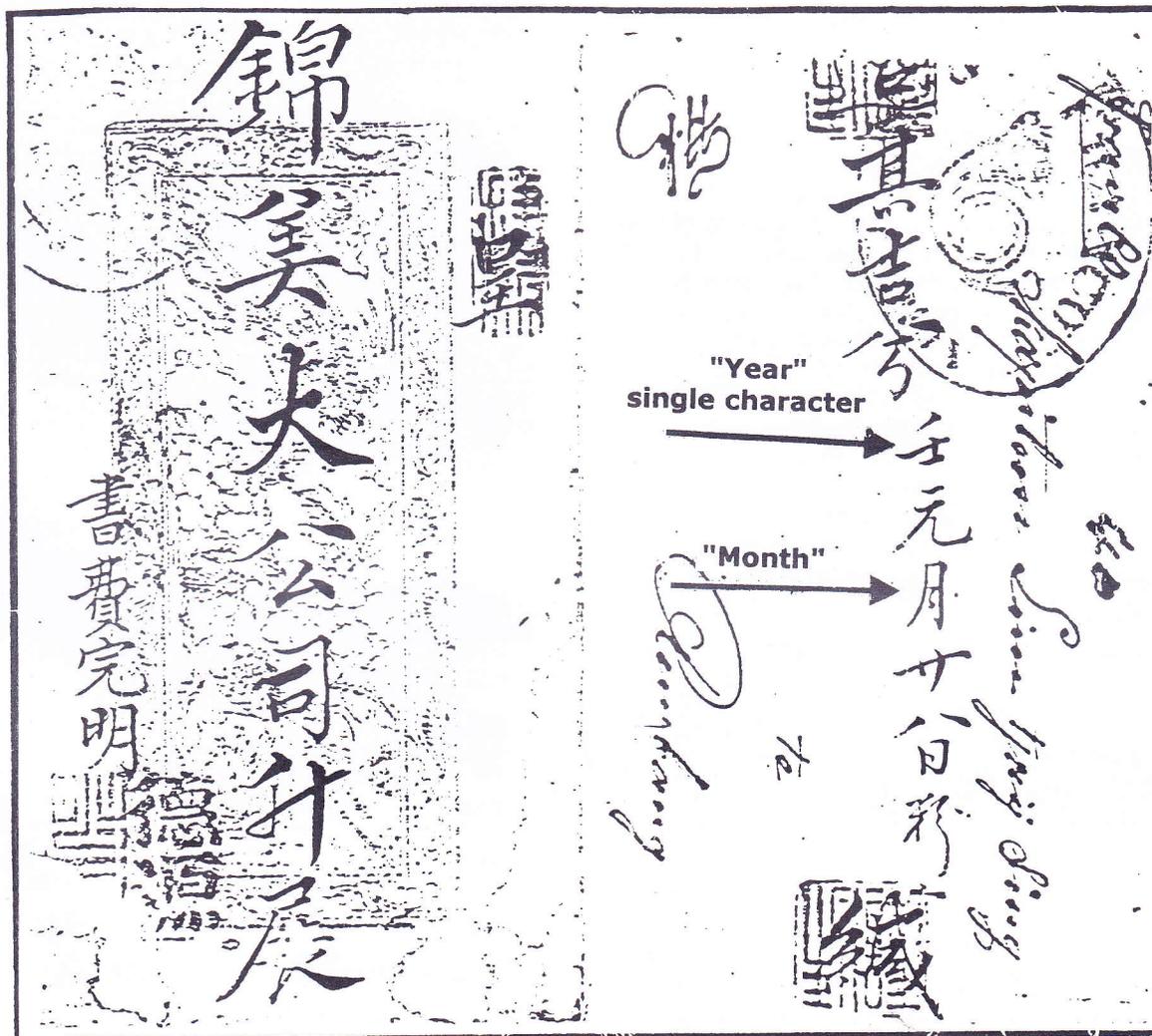


Fig. 4 Wrapper sent from Madion, East Java, to Rembang, Central Java in 1852, prepaid 40 duiten.

## The LUX Soap Cards of the Netherlands-Indies

by *Stuart Leven & Wayne Menuz*  
(condensed by *Hans Kremer*)

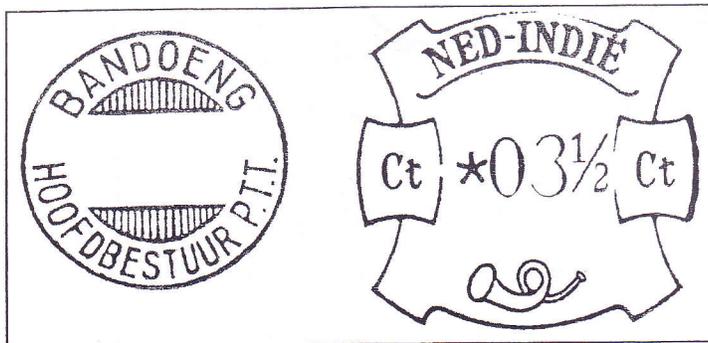
(Original article appeared in "Postal Stationery" (official publication of the United States Stationery Society) of September-October 2001)

In 1933 the Unilever Company opened a soap factory in Batavia, Netherlands (Dutch) Indies. It produced many brands of soap for use in the Dutch colony. One of these brands was LUX soap. Several years later the company passed out postal cards with movie stars pictured on them in an advertising campaign. The LUX brand of soap, since the turn of the century, had featured famous people, usually entertainment stars, in its magazine and other advertising.

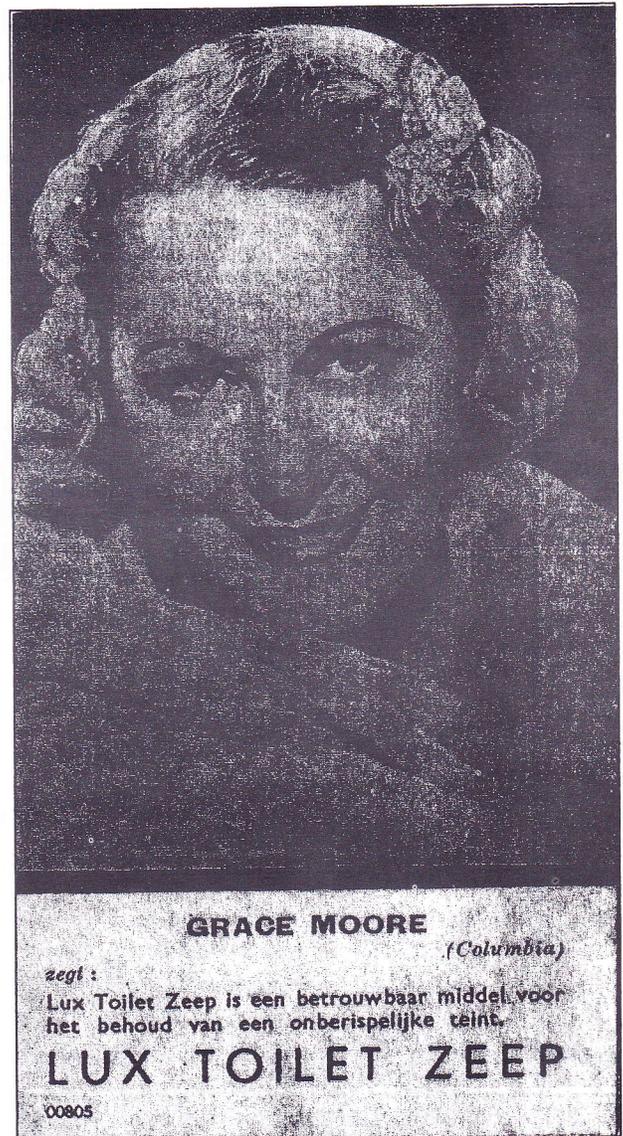
This was an extension of that mode.

For the ad campaign Unilever intended to have pre-franked postal cards to be given away free with the soap. The user, postal employees, and the recipient of the card would all be exposed to the "glamorous" ad. The problem was that normal government issued postal cards were not suitable for the ad images, and Unilever could not pre-stamp the cards with its meter, because its date stamp would not be appropriate for cards that would be used quite some time after the card was stamped, packaged with the soap, distributed to stores, purchased, and then used.

A way around was adopted by the PTT to overcome these problems. They decided to allow production of Printed to Private Order cards locally. Since there were no stamp dies available in the Dutch Indies, they modified a meter machine to "print" undated stamp impressions on the cards supplied to it by the Unilever company.



The cards were franked by the meter frank machine "BANDOENG / HOOFDBESTUUR P.T.T." at the Central Post Office or P.T.T. Headquarters in Bandoeng, Java, Dutch Indies. The value of three and one half cents is that of the postcard rate after 1 May 1937. These cards were ready to be addressed and mailed when passed out by the Unilever company. The normal circular date stamp center is blank. The circular date stamp and the denomination part were both struck at the same time since they were both part of the same meter machine die. No other use of frank machine for any other mails in the Netherlands Indies has ever been recorded.

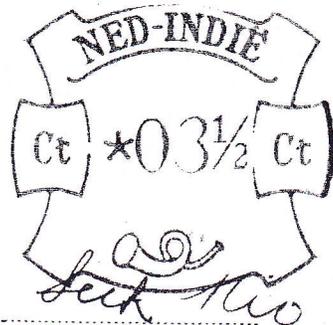


*Large sized card with ad in Dutch.*

The back of the cards each had the photograph of a movie star and a message (each different) in either Dutch or Indonesian (Malay). The front of the card was divided in a message and address part. The cards come in two sizes: 144 x 77 mm with the ad only in Dutch, and 125 x 71 mm with the message in Indonesian. On the front side in the upper left is a message in Dutch stating that the cards can be used within the Netherlands Indies and to Holland (The Netherlands), but Holland was dropped from the Malay version in the second line.

Soeda diperankoken boeat soerat menjoerat diselocroe tanah Hindia

I shall not turn  
 The heart will seek,  
 its kindest heart,  
 And cling to it,  
 as close as ever.  
 Euphem



Miss Jan Sek Nio  
 H. H. Jan Goan Pro  
 Tjipanas  
 Tjibadak

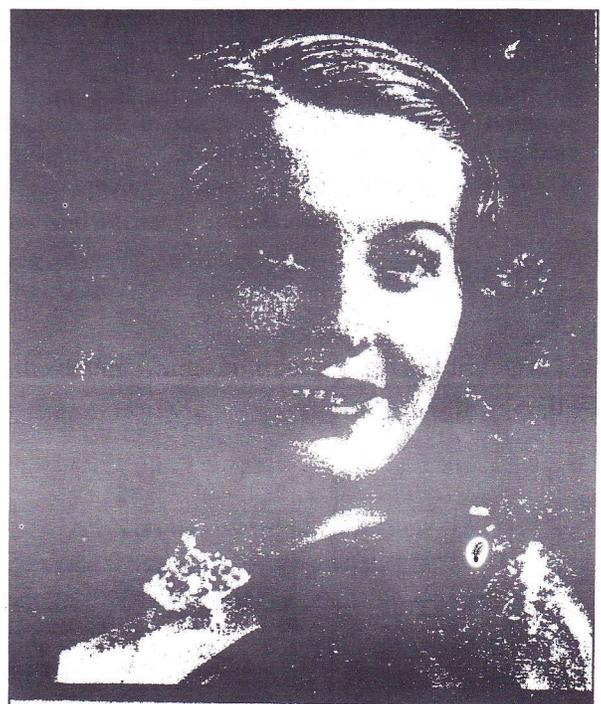


**JEAN MUIR**  
(Free Lance)

zegt:  
 Lux Toilet Zeep is wonderbaarlijk voor de huid.  
 Ik gebruik het trouw, want het houdt mijn teint  
 precies, zoals ik het graag hebben wil — fluweel-  
 zacht, onberispelijk, fris en altijd jeugdijg.

**LUX TOILET ZEEP**

00811



**BARBARA STANWYCK**  
(Radio Pictures)

kata:  
 Saja senang sekali dengan kefaedahannya Saboen  
 Wangi Lux. Soeda tentoe, sebab koelit saja sela-  
 manja tinggal segar dan haloes, lantaran soeda  
 tahoenan lamanja saja selaloe memakai Saboen  
 Wangi Lux saban hari.

**SABOEN WANGI LUX**

7806

Left: Large sized card with ad in Dutch  
 Above: Small sized card with ad in Malay

The dates of usage so far recorded range from 6/25/1938 to 2/27/1940. It is uncertain when the cards were actually stamped by the PTT, or when the cards were first available to purchasers of LUX soap.

It would appear the set had 12 cards, as the cards each have a number on the picture side. The recorded cards are listed below:

		Dutch	Indonesian
00801	Loretta Young	X	X
00802	Miriam Hopkins	X	
00803	Claudette Colbert	X	
00804	Carole Lombard	X	
00805	Grace Moore	X	
00806	Barbara Stanwyck	X	
00807	Irene Dunne	X	X
00808	Jean Parker	X	
00809	not recorded		
00810	Deanna Durbin	X	X
00811	Jean Muir	X	X
00812	number not recorded and may not exist.		

There should be no doubt that these cards are legitimate stationery and not "meter" mail. The fact that the "stamp" design was taken from that of a meter machine, suitably modified, and not of the standard die used on over-the-counter postal cards, was solely the result of the unavailability of any other suitable stamp die

locally. The fact that the "stamp" design is undated, and that the cards needed to be cancelled, also confirm their status as true postal stationery. They are, however, not listed in any of the standard postal stationery catalogs of the Dutch Indies, such as Higgins & Gage or Geuzendam's catalog.

These cards are not only collected by knowledgeable postal stationery and Dutch Indies collectors, but also by the large body of collectors of LUX Soap collectibles (magazine ads, unopened boxes of soap, specially commissioned LUX radios and clocks, etc.) In addition, collectors of meter marks can include these items as "adjunct" material since the dies are taken from the meter machines.

These postal stationery cards are extremely rare because of their "junk mail" status, and because World War II arrived in the Dutch Indies just a few years after they were first issued, and philately was not a high priority during the Japanese Occupation. If anybody can add information to our listing it would be appreciated. The existence of the unconfirmed numbers would be especially welcome, as well as confirmation of known numbers in a non-confirmed language of the advertisement. Lastly, any deviation from the pattern noted above regarding the two different sizes would be especially welcome.

