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NETHERLANDS PHILATELY

Magazine of the American Society for
Netherlands Philately; **Volume 38/4**

July 2014

In front of you is our Netherlands East Indies Special 2. Yes you read it well, number 2. I received a couple more articles, which made it possible to give you a second special issue to extend the celebrations. For us as a Society this is a remarkable achievement especially since it was achieved in such a short time. Hopefully this rising line will be continued into the future, extending to our regular magazine themes.

As magazine editor you sometimes receive an article that you put on the shelf to be used at a later time as it will come to it's right much better, just like good wine. As editor this is sometimes a difficult decision to make. John's article (starting at page 144) is a good example of this as it is the perfect article to close our Netherlands East Indies Specials. Further we have a part of, in my opinion, the best ever assembled NEI 1864 issue collection in this magazine.

Further there is a little update about the planning of our Bi-Annual meeting in New York in 2016 and celebrating our 40th Anniversary.

There is only one thing left to bring to your attention and that is the renewal of your membership. For more information about renewing your membership see the attachment to your email or see the enclosed renewal form in your printed copy.

Sit back, relax and enjoy reading this magazine.

Alex Nuijten

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Magazine Notes

Our Magazine is the business card of our society. With modern technology available, a full color magazine is warranted.

Potential authors are asked to send in full color scans (at 600 dpi) of their illustrations. I would like to receive the text in MS Word. Keep in mind that you clearly state where each illustration belongs in the article.

Contact the Magazine editor in case of questions.

NEW YORK 2016



In 2015 it will be 40th anniversary of our Society. This is a milestone in many philatelic societies these days. The Society wants to celebrate this event with combining our bi-annual meeting with the World Stamp Show New York 2016.

Here is an update for this coming event

Kees Adema, a well-known member of our society, has volunteered to organize this meeting.

He has already contacted the members via email and found a possible venue location. So far 15 members and 3 of their partners have responded that they will attend. However there is still plenty of room for more members and their partners. So if you wish to be part contact Kees Adema on kees13adema@gmail.com

Don't hesitate and be part of an amazing celebration!



Leiddraad 09
12th ray from below missing, right of the large crown.

Leiddraad Plate Faults Enquiry



Leiddraad 16
Right side of the shield missing and broken.

Stamp society “De Plaatfout” in the Netherlands started to scan all plate varieties mentioned in the Leiddraad catalogue from 1922 and placing them on their website

<http://www.plaatfout.org/>

If you as member have any of these plate varieties and want to help “De Plaatfout” out, please contact Jan van Wilgenburg (jvwbhv@hotmail.com).



Leiddraad 6
Broken top part of the R of “Nederland”.
Left stamp.

Online documents of the Netherlands East Indies

For the Netherlands East Indies collectors amongst us there is a great online source providing scans of items and documentation, including original manuals of the NEI postal authorities.

Much of this information is in PDF format, which can be saved to your own computer.

For more information visit the website of

<http://www.studiegroep-zwp.nl/>

The Netherlands East Indies

The FIRST ISSUE 1864

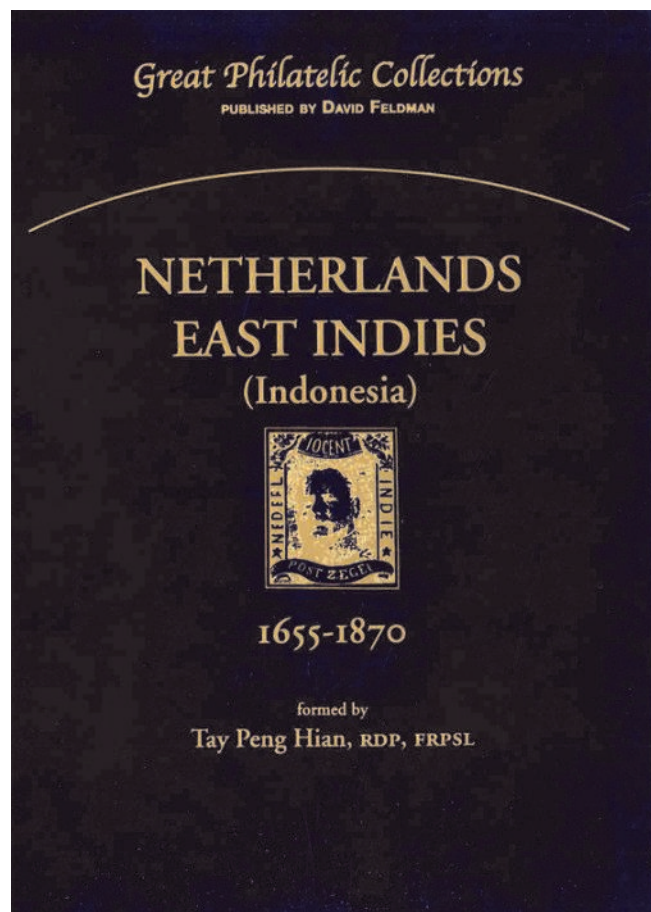
by Tay Peng Hian

Editors Note:

On the following pages will be viewing a selection of Tay Peng Hian's exhibition collection, Netherlands East Indies (Indonesia) 1655-1870.

Those who wish to see the whole collection and want to have a reference book, please visit the website of David Feldman, where you can order a copy of the book.

<http://www.davidfeldman.com/shop/netherlands-east-indies-indonesia-1655-1870-formed-by-tay-peng-hian-rdp-frpsl.html>



Introduction:

Date of Issue	:	April 1, 1864
Value	:	One Value (denomination) of 10 Cents
Design	:	King William III portrait
Arrangement	:	100 stamps printed in a sheet, arranged in 10 rows of 10 stamps per row
Perforation	:	Imperforate
Paper	:	White
Watermark	:	No watermark

THE ISSUED STAMPS

10 CENTS

April 1, 1864



Portrait of King William III

Positions : 6 - 9
16 - 20
26 - 30
36 - 40
46 - 50

[illegible]

Largest mint multiple known in private hands

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES CLASSIC

LARGEST USED BLOCK KNOWN OF THE 1864 FIRST ISSUE



The First Issue of the Netherlands East Indies (today's Indonesia) appeared on April 01, 1864. It consisted of one denomination of 10 cents stamp, imperforate, gummed, printed in a pane of 100 stamps, 10 rows x 10.

The display shows a used block of 50 stamps, being the largest known of the first issue. It was used from Ngawie on February 16, 1869. The next larger block is a used block of 15, from Batavia. Further down the line is a block of 6, used from Buitenzorg. Thus big multiple used blocks are very rare.

**HALFROUND FRANCO POSTMARKS
ON THE 1864 FIRST ISSUE
OF THE NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES**



Ternate
(Struck in blue)

July 25, 1867
Earliest use in Ternate

- * All the 51 main Post Offices were issued with the Halfround Franco (HRF) datestamps in 1866 (except Batavia which used HRF datestamps since 1861) to cancel the postage stamps and to be treated as despatch marks, replacing the earlier Framed Franco handstamps.
- * Earliest date of use : May 6, 1866 (Kedirie)
- * Latest date of use : December 30, 1870 (Amboina)
- * After extensive research I have found that:
 - 22 Post Offices - Letters are recorded, affixed with the 1864 First Issue (10 Cents) struck with HRF postmarks. All are on display.
 - 29 Post Offices - No letters are recorded, but stamps with HRF postmarks are known and are on display.



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HALFROUND FRANCO POSTMARKS



Bandong
August 15, 1868
Late use

Padang



Passoeroean



Magelang



Kedirie

BATAVIA

HALFROUND FRANCO POSTMARKS TYPE VI



November 18, 1866

November 12, 1866



Positions: 71 - 75
81 - 85
91 - 95

April 15, 1867



Positions: 81 - 82
91 - 92

Type VI: baseline 20mm, letters (BATAVIA) shorter, closer and squad

BATAVIA

MIXED ISSUE FRANKING TO NETHERLANDS

October 27, 1870

60 Cents per 15 gms wt. rate to Netherlands via Marseilles
as from January 1870



- * Only known mixed franking usage of the 1864 1st & 1870 3rd issues
- * Batavia Halfround Franco Postmarks Type V
 1. base line 22.5 mm
 2. letters large, well spaced
- * October 27, 1870 : latest date of use of Batavia HRF postmarks
- * 6 types of Batavia HRF postmarks were identified by E Veorman (in PHILATELIE, October 1994). Types I & II appeared on pre-philatelic letters, whereas Types III to VI could be found on stamps

BUITENZORG



February 21, 1867



September 18, 1868
(Latest date of usage)

Positions 26 - 27
36 - 37
46 - 47



to Menado

June 6, 1868

BENZOEKIE



October 2, 1868



October 24, 1867



November 23, 1867

Framed Franco
Handstamps were
applied in Batavia

*Bondowosso via Bezokie, Batavia,
Marseille to Middleburg

*with effect from 1863, letters to Netherlands
& Nearby European countries, with an undesignated
route: 90 cents per 15 gms wt

*One of the 2 letters known

CHERIBON



LARGE MULTIPLE USAGE



Via Batavia to Haarlem

February 21, 1868

firstly struck with **Cheribon**, then
Batavia Halfround Postmarks Type VI

SUMEDANG

June 9, 1867
earliest seen



One Of The 2 Letters Known



October 27, 1867

Sumedang to Batavia

BANDONG



Bandong to Batavia

September 24, 1867



August 15, 1868



"INDIA PAID BY BATAVIA" = Steam postage had been paid at Batavia

Bandong via Singapore to Austria

SAMARANG

HALFROUND POSTMARKS TYPE I



November 20, 1868

to Benkoelen



Triple Letter Rate 30 Cents

domestic letter rate :
10 cents per 15 grams wt

SAMARANG

HALFROUND POSTMARKS TYPE II



SAMARANG :
'M' slim & tall
letters are closer
to each other.

January 31, 1868



Samarang to Soerabaija

SAMARANG

HALFROUND POSTMARKS TYPE III

February 26, 1868

Samarang to Rembang



HR Postmark Type III is hitherto unrecorded,
it differs from the first 2 types in :

	Type I,II	Type III
1. base line	21mm	25mm
2. FRANCO (height)	3mm	4mm



Type I
1. 'M' wide
2. letters well spaced



Type II
1. 'M' slim & tall
2. letters closer

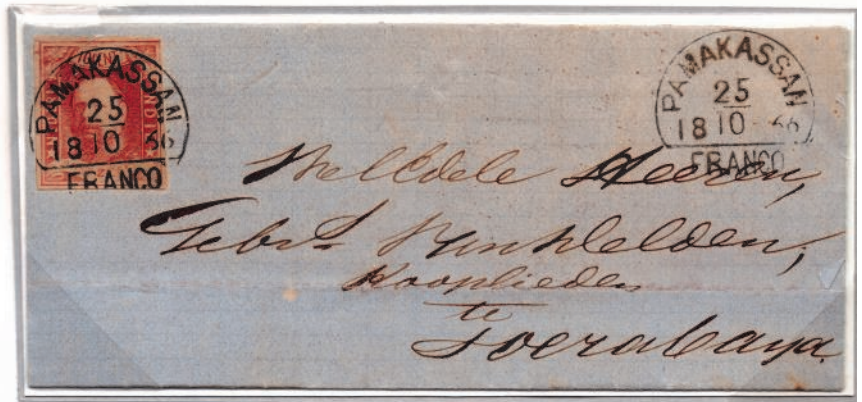


Type III

PAMAKASSAN

October 25, 1866

September 1, 1866
Earliest Seen



PATTIE

February 18, 1869

- * Latest used date (1 month later than previously recorded)
- * Probably the only letter known, so far



PASSOEROEAN

October 5, 1866

Early usage to Batavia



The Netherlands East Indies 1939-1942 Part II,

Censor mark: GECENSUREERD 1 thru 19

by Saburo Masuyama

In Batavia, “CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 1 thru 10” and “GECENSUREERD 1 thru 10” were first used at the same time in May 1940. Many letters with “CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 1 thru 10” were used without a resealing label. This means they were not opened to be checked and a mark was applied such as “Passed for transmission” in Singapore or “Not opened by censor” in Hong Kong. On June 12, 1940, the censorship duty was transferred from the armed forces to the judiciary. From the end of July, the “DEVIEZENINSTITUUT” (the currency institution) began to censor if a currency, a check, or a negotiable paper was suspected to be enclosed. So, from then on, the use of “CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 2 thru 10” decreased. Only “CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 1” was used often till February 1942.

I Red “CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 1 thru 10”

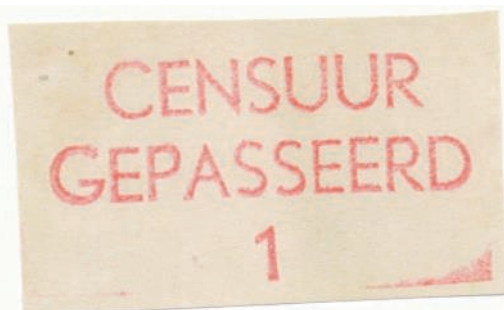


Figure 22. Surabaya May 20, 1940 with “white resealing label” by registered mail to Singapore.
Batavia “CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 2” in red and “DOOR CENSUUR GEOPEND”
brown resealing label was applied on top of “white resealing label”.
Singapore June 3 “PASSED FOR TRANSMISSION SINGAPORE 15” not opened.



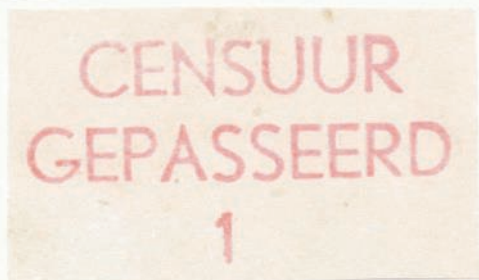
Figure 23. Batavia May 25, 1940 "CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 1" in red without resealing label to London by KLM. I was surprised to find an image of this cover in the commemorative book of ZWP (page 88).

There are two types of this censor mark (see below), but it is not clear when the change occurred.



Type A
Earliest date recorded
Last date recorded

"1" centered under SS of "GEPASSEERD"
Batavia May 25, 1940
Batavia 21 May, 1941



Type B
Earliest date recorded
Last date recorded

"1" under the first S of "GEPASSEERD"
Bandung September 2, 1941
Bandung February 28, 1942



Figure 24. Batavia May 21, 1941 "CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 1" in red type A. Local mail service.



Figure 25. Bandung September 2, 1941 "CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 1" in red type B to California. 5 cent over franked.



Figure 26. Alexandria, Egypt, May 16, 1940. Batavia "CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 3" in red to Surabaya.

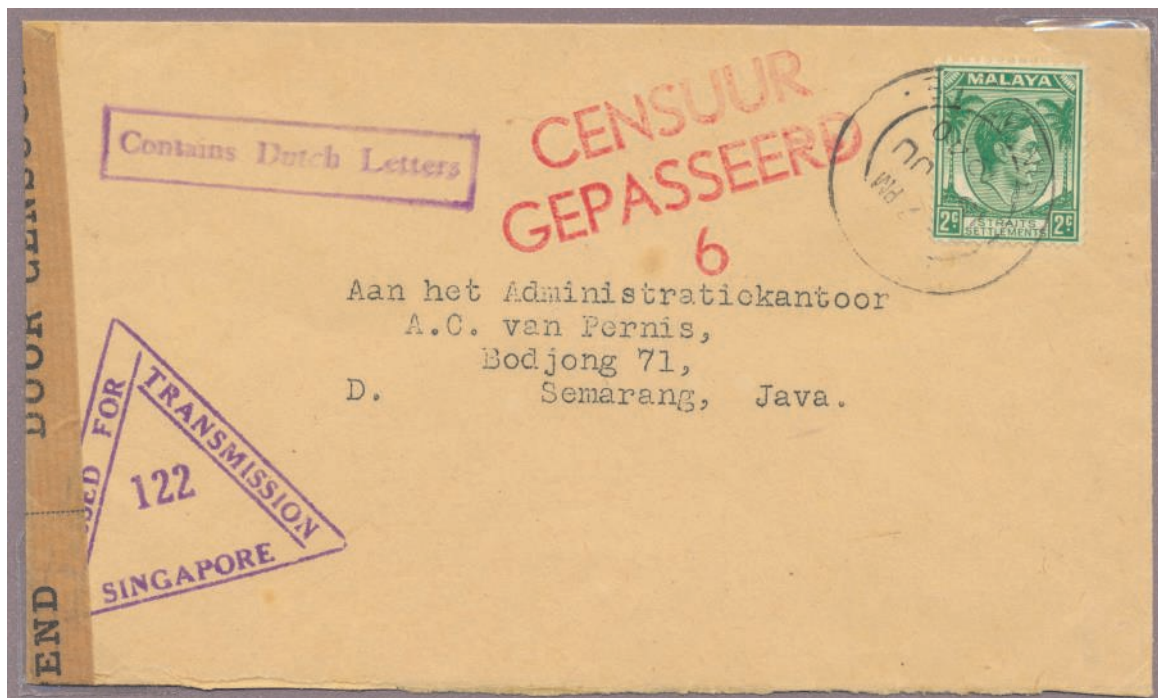


Figure 27. Singapore, May 15, 1940. Batavia "CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 6" in red to Semarang.

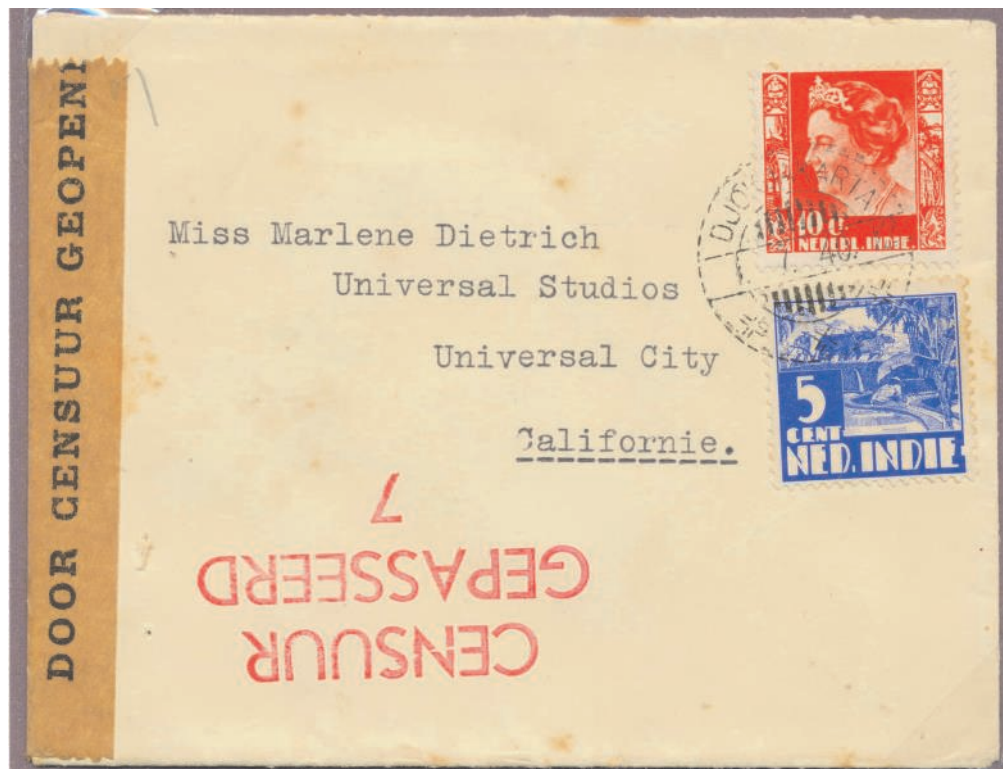


Figure 28. Djokjakarta July 1, 1940 with "CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 7" in red.

Editorial note: This envelope was sent to the famous Marlene Dietrich. She was a German who became an US citizen in 1939 and was an anti-Nazi. She was loved by many service men of the German and allied army during WW II.

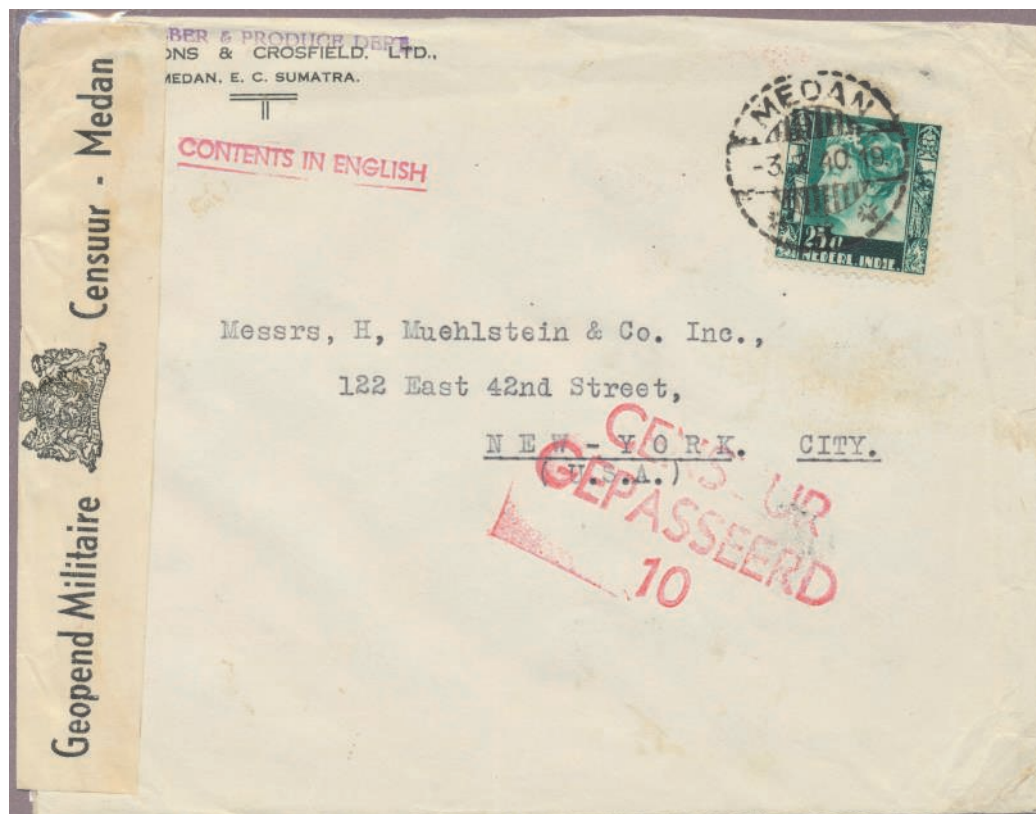


Figure 29. Medan July 3, 1940. Resealing label "Geopend Militaire Censuur - Medan" with Batavia "CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 10" in red to New York via surface mail.

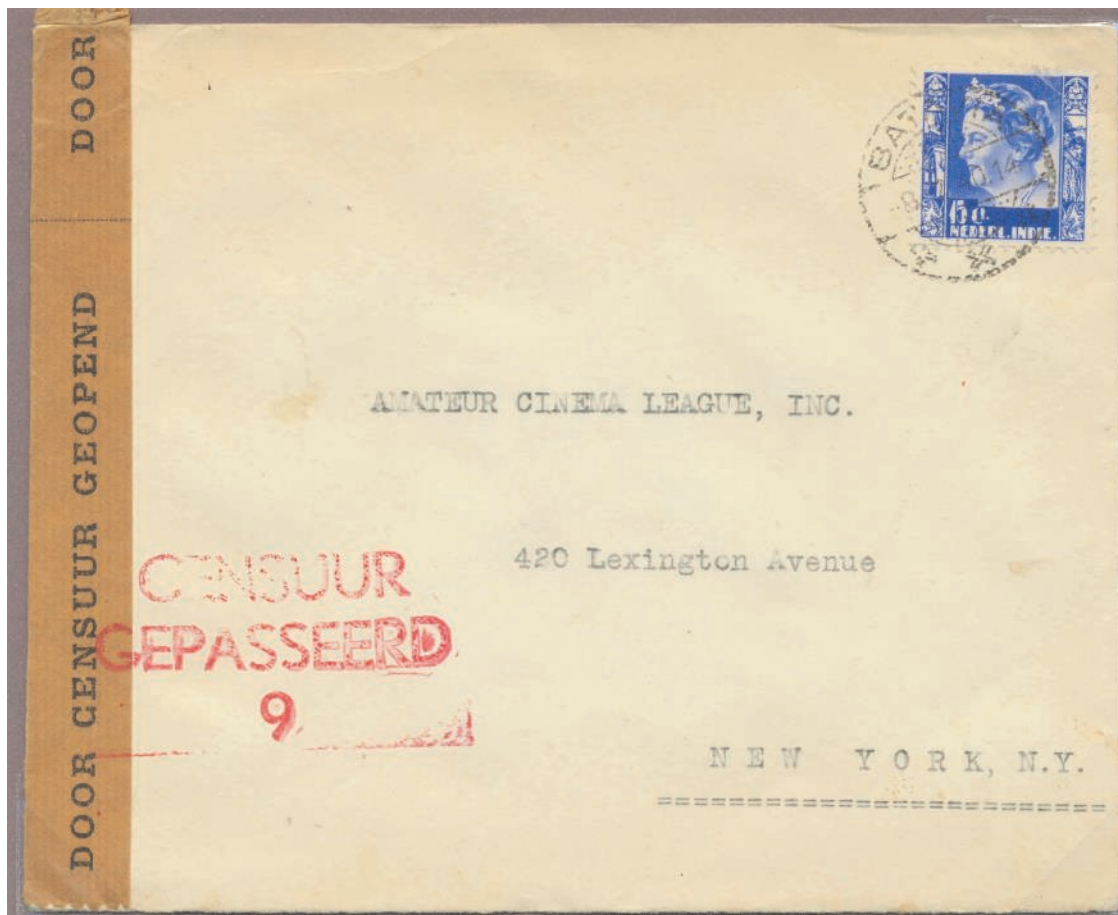


Figure 30. Batavia July 8, 1940 with "CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 9" over brown resealing label.

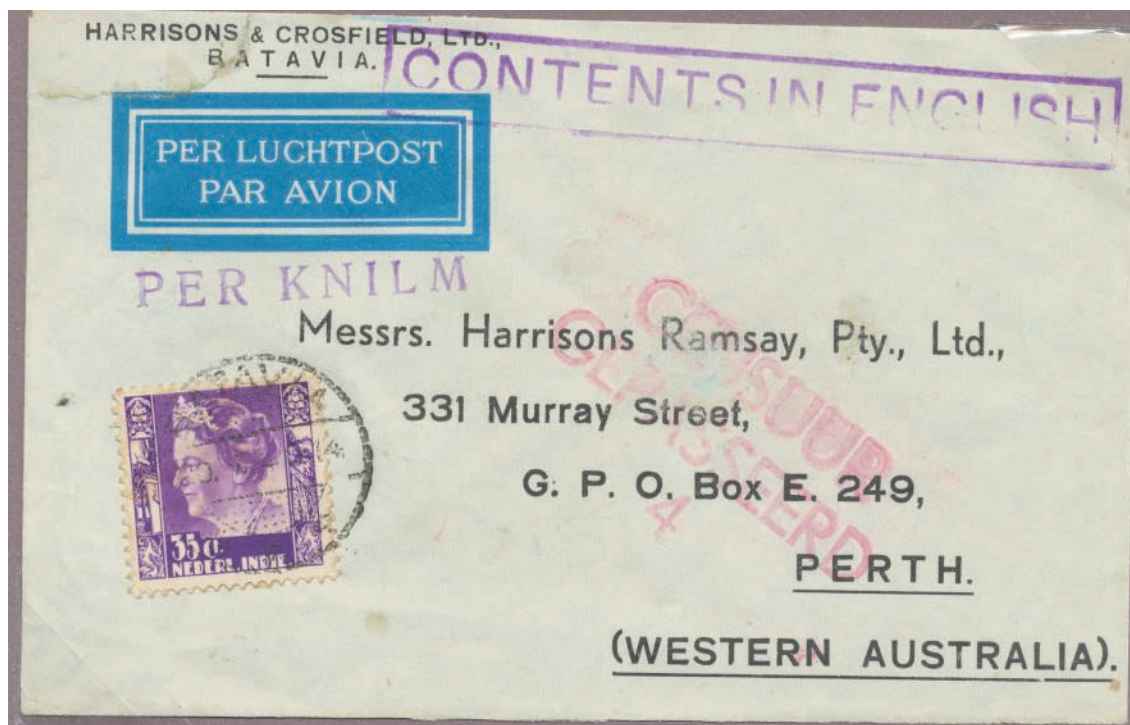


Figure 31. Batavia July 20, 1940 "CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 4" in red to Perth via the KNILM.

After August 1940

Because the “DEVIEZENINSTITUUT” (currency institution) censored much of the mail to and from foreign countries, there was little use of “CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 2 thru 10” after August 1940.



Figure 32. Padang January 21, 1941. “CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 8” in red on letter sheet to Surabaya.



Figure 33. Surabaya May 15, 1940. “CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 5” in red to Shanghai (June 8)

II Violet “CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 2”, Medan



Figure 34. Medan October 21, 1940. “CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 2” in violet to New York (Dec. 9).

“2” (Medan) and “7” (Makassar) were used with violet ink. Both marks look like the ones used in Batavia.



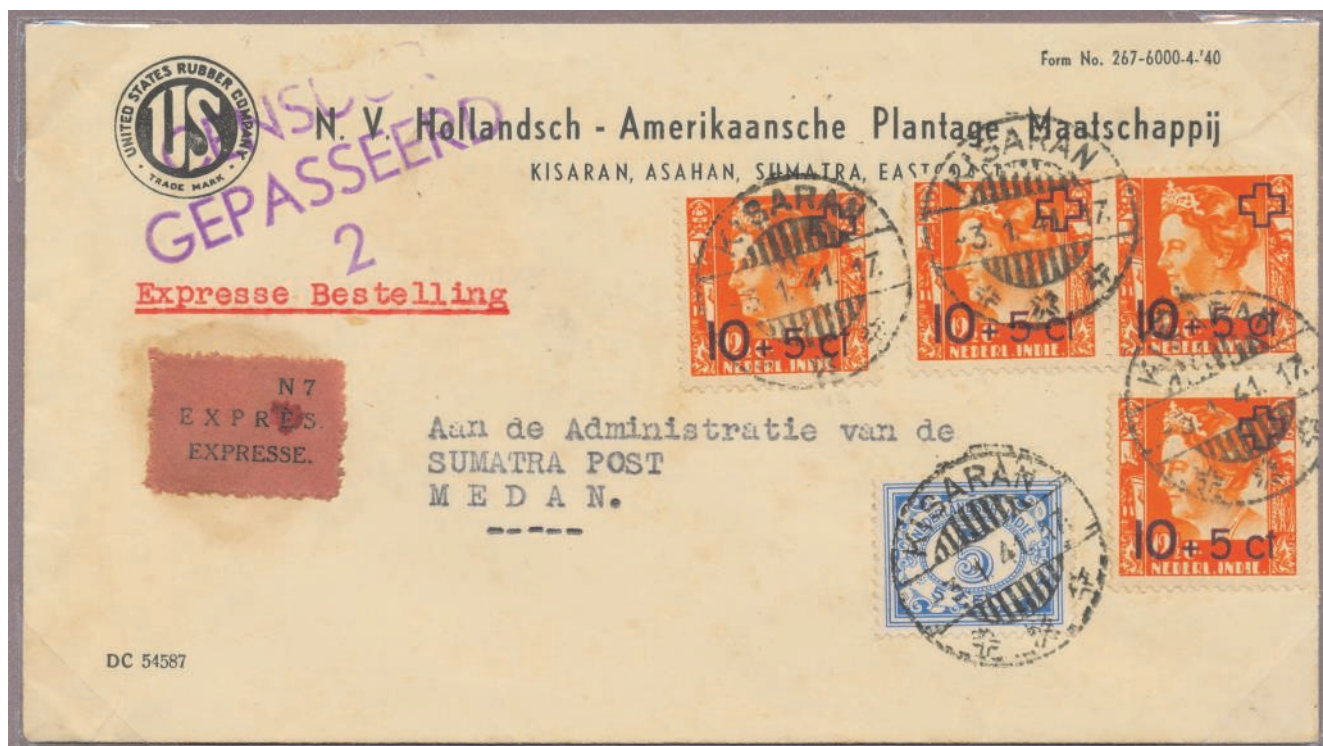


Figure 35. Kisan January 3, 1941 to Medan "CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 2" in violet with express delivery.

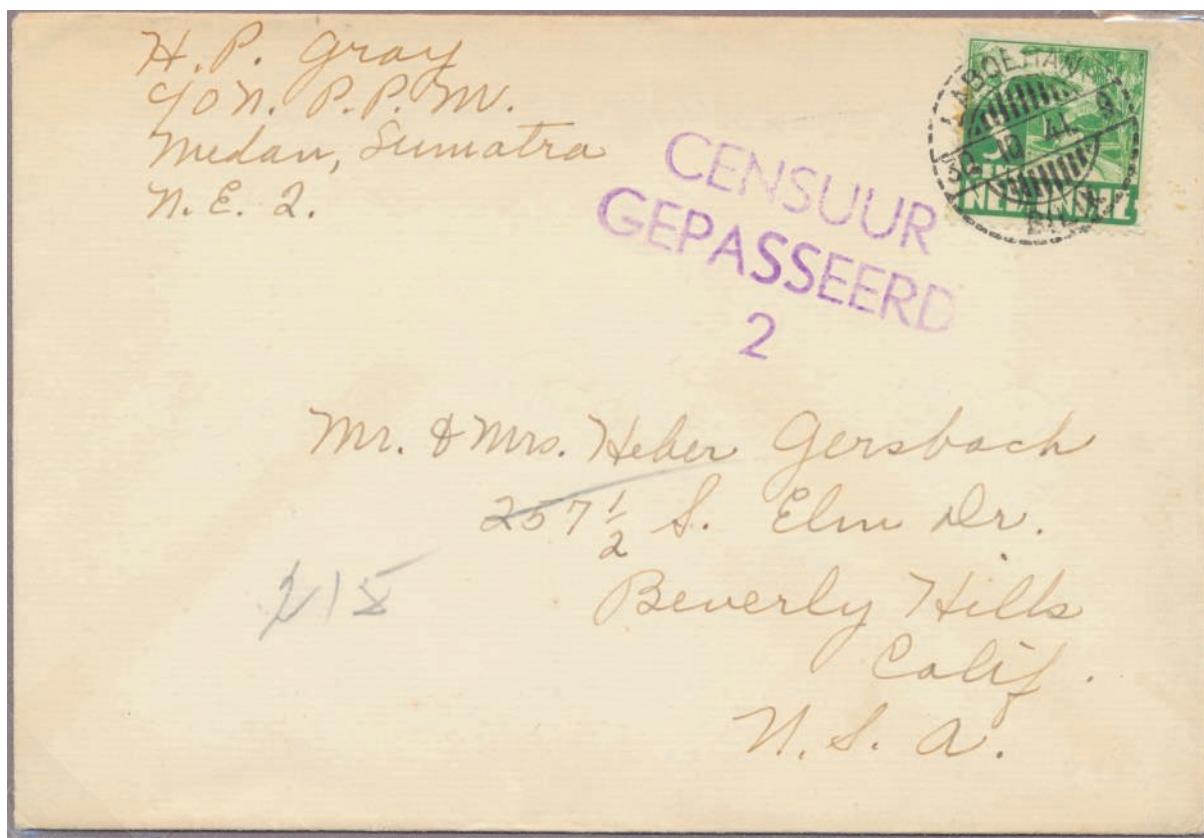


Figure 36. Laboanbalik October 30, 1941. Medan "CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 2" in violet to the U.S.A.

Black and violet “CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 7” Makasser

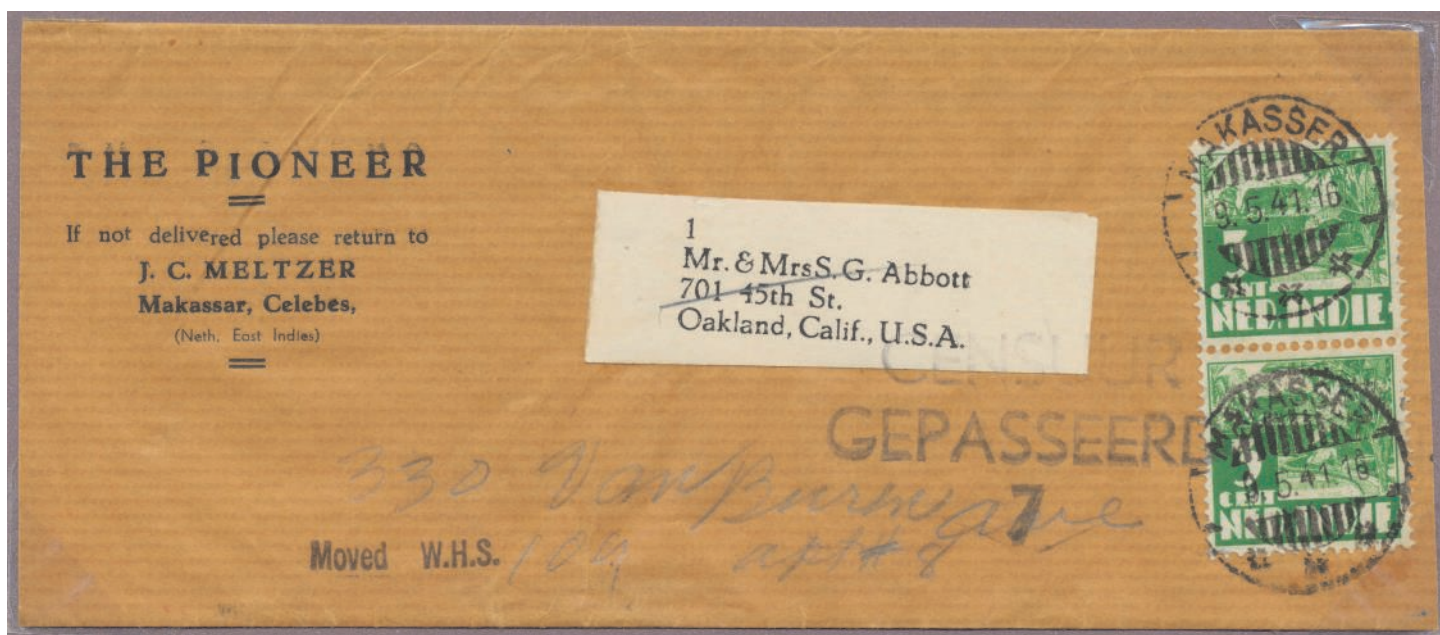


Figure 37. Makasser May 9, 1940 “CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 7” in black to the U.S.A.



Figure 38. Makasser January 20, 1942 “CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 7” in violet to the U.S.A.
This mark was applied only on printed matter.

Violet “CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 19” Medan



Figure 39. Pematangsiantar November 23, 1941 “CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 19” in violet to the U.S.A. (arrived March 2)



Figure 40. Medan December 5, 1941 “CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 19” in violet via Singapore to San Francisco (U.S.A.).

The white resealing label “ EXAMINED BY 1531” was applied in San Francisco.

Editorial note: The stamps have the perfin S.M.N. (type 1) which was used by the N.V. Stoomvaart Maatschappij “Nederland”, located at Koningsplein W 3, Batavia. This perfin was applied from 1923 till 1942.

III Red “CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 13” Tarakan

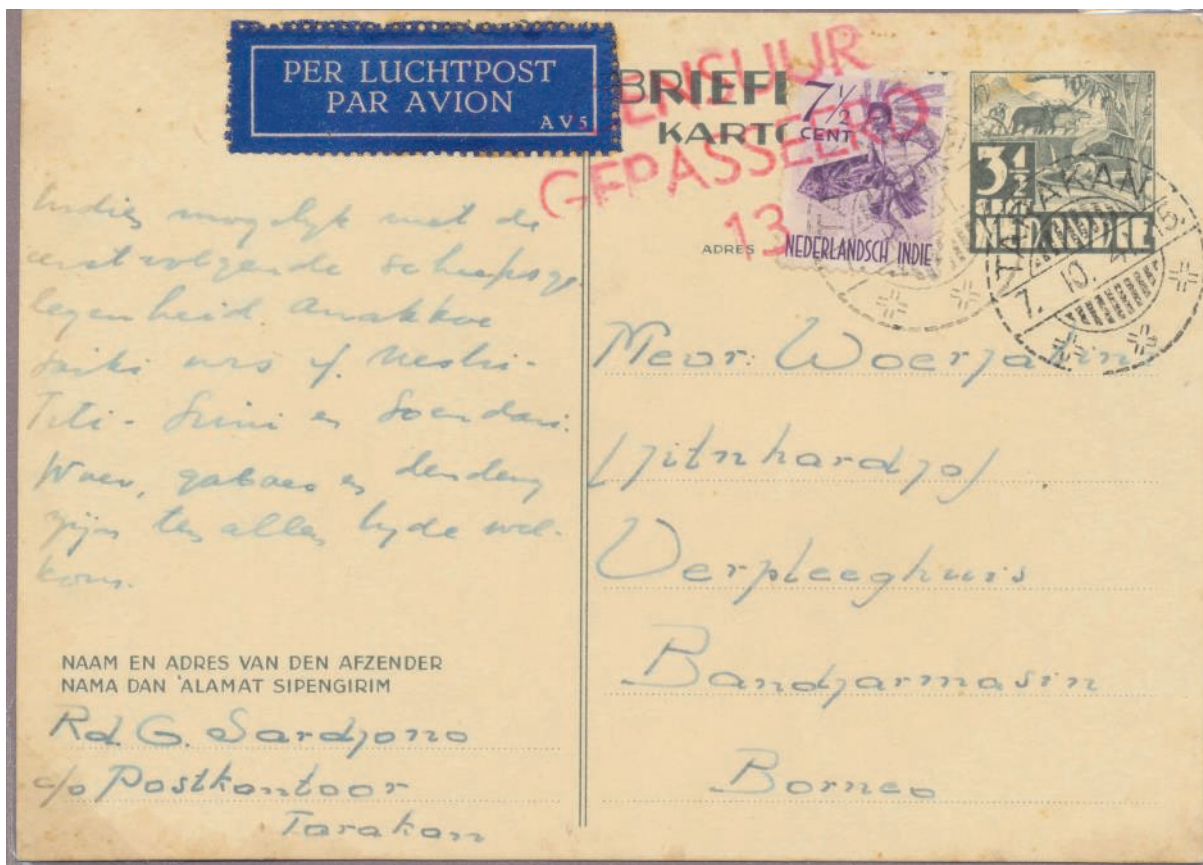


Figure 41. Tarakan October 7, 1941 "CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 13" to Bandjarmasin by domestic airmail. I think it is Tarakan, however there is also the possibility of Bandjarmasin.

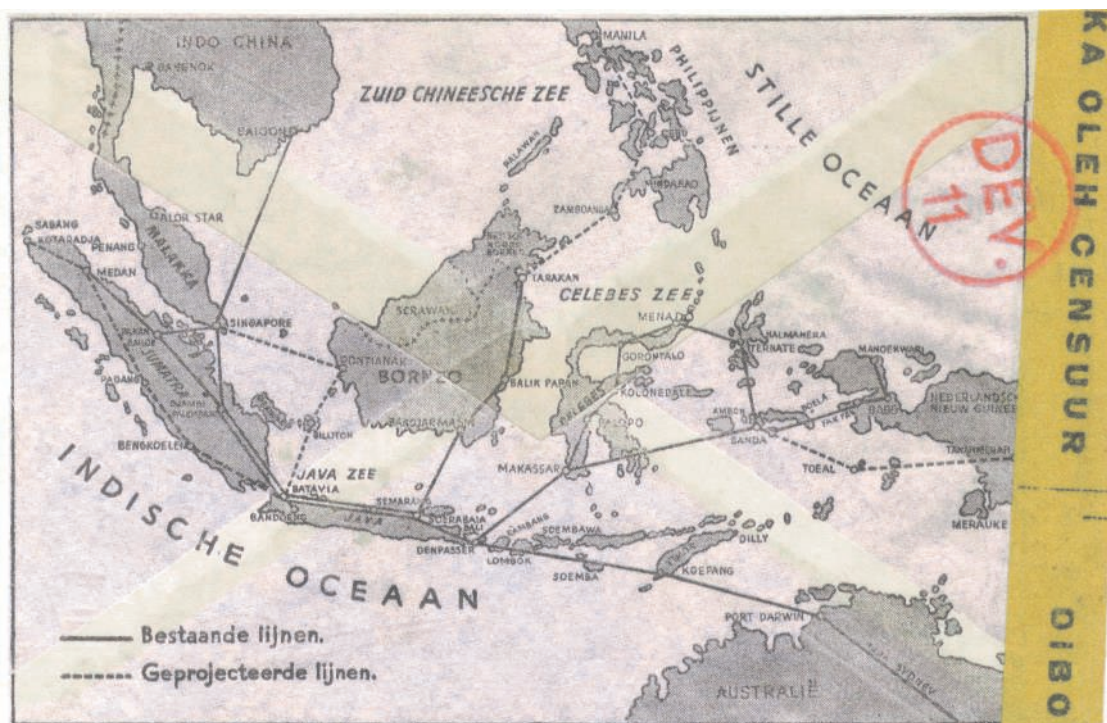


Figure 42. Airmail routes of the KNILM during 1940.

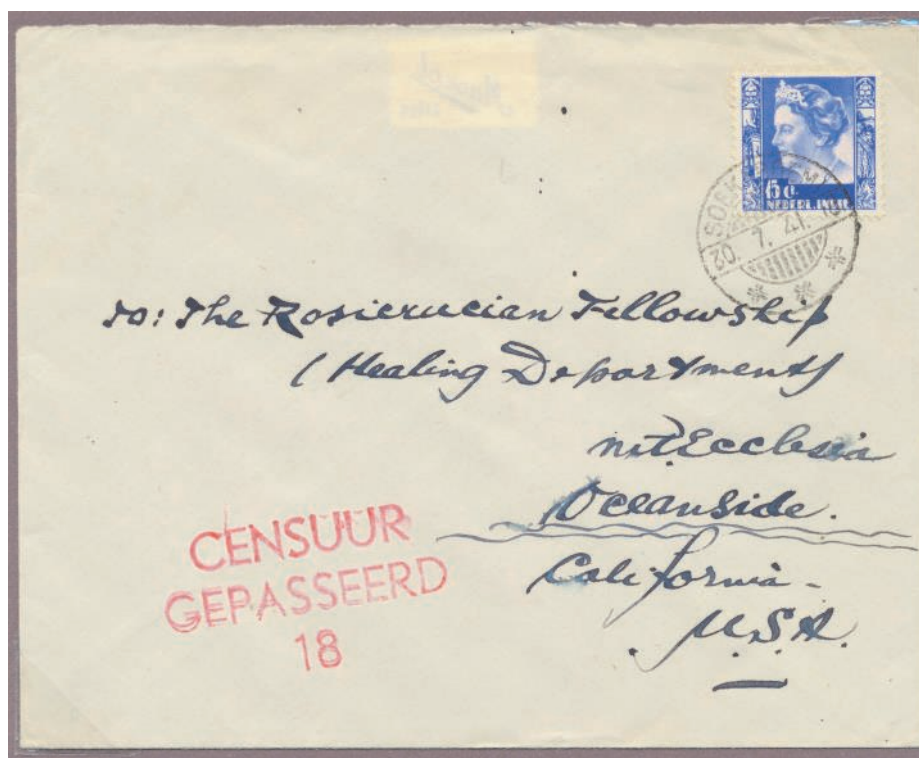


Figure 43. Soekaboemi July 30, 1941 "CENSUR GEPASSEERD 18" to the U.S.A.



Figure 44. Buitenzorg July 13, 1941 to the National Museum in Washington.

I think these surface mails were censored in Batavia. However I wonder whether "CENSUR GEPASSEERD 14 thru 17 and 33" exist or not. They are reported, but I have not seen them. I'm looking forward to additional information from all of you.

Soekarno and Suharto

The first and second presidents of Indonesia

A philatelic collage

by Mardjohan (John) Hardjasudarma

Together, the two men successively governed Indonesia for over half a century, leaving behind an indelible mark in the process. Soekarno's reign began on August 17, 1945 when he proclaimed the independence of Indonesia with Hatta who was to become his vice-president. The following years were turbulent as the nation, devastated by the Japanese during the Second World War that had just ended days earlier, faced the returning Dutch who intended to resume their interrupted 300-plus year rule over the Asian colony. This resulted in the War of Independence, which ended in 1949 with the sovereignty transfer of the entire territory except for the Western part of the island of New Guinea. This period was previously covered in *The American Philatelist* (1995; 109 (7)).

Initially, the postal services used the stamps, postal stationery and cancelling devices left behind by the Dutch. Some of the stamps and postmarks of the War of Independence period were also in use for a short time, in particular the characteristic Sumatra 'PTT/Rep. Indonesia' cancellers.



Top: Block of four Soekarno stamps, postmarked with the characteristic PTT (postal services) REP(oeblik) INDONESIA cancel that was only used in Sumatra. Medan, 1947

Right: Revalued Soekarno postal card with military censor, Jogjakarta, 1948.



On December 27, 1949 the sovereignty of the State of Indonesia (the former Dutch East Indies) was formally handed over from the Netherlands Government to the Federated Republic of Indonesia (Republik Indonesia Serikat, known by its initials RIS)

In 1950 twenty-three values of the Numeral & Temple series of 1949 were overprinted with RIS. The Federation was short-lived as it was quickly dissolved and converted into a Union. Some RIS stamps were sold in small quantities and used sparingly, resulting in the 2 Rp (Rupiah; 1 Rp = 100 sen) becoming the rarest stamp of post-1949 Indonesia philately. Not surprisingly, forged RIS overprints are anything but.

The economy of the Riau Archipelago located between Sumatra and Singapore was for many years dominated by the stronger currency of the latter. Postal rates in Riau were similar to those in the rest of Indonesia, but were payable in S\$ (Straits or Singapore dollar). Thus a 10 sen stamp cost Rp 0.10 in the rest of Indonesia, but S\$ 0.10 in Riau. It became profitable to buy postage stamps elsewhere, then bring them into Riau to use or sell for local usage. To put an end to this practice postage stamps overprinted RIAU were issued for exclusive use on the islands starting in 1954 to the mid sixties, when the Rupiah was reintroduced as the sole valid currency. Most of the used stamps can be found on postal money orders, parcel post cards, or fragments thereof.



Left: Incoming foreign letter to Pulusambu, in the Riau archipelago. Short paid and thus assessed postage due upon arrival, which was refused by the addressee. The dues were voided and the letter was returned to Singapore.

Right: The orange due is Indonesian, while the brown one is Dutch Indies, still in use in 1953, three years after sovereignty transfer. Both dues are of a similar design, one that continued to be used for several more decades.

In 1961, after diplomatic efforts to reunite Irian Barat (West New Guinea) failed, a military conflict broke out between Indonesia and The Netherlands. By mutual agreement the United Nations subsequently mediated a truce and set up a transitional government named UNTEA (United Nations Temporary Executive Authority) in October 1962. Seven months later the territory was reunited with the rest of Indonesia. To ease the transition, Irian Barat Rupiahs (IB Rp) were issued as local currency, initially pegged at par with the former Dutch New Guinea Guilder. Special postage stamps in this currency, with or without overprint were also issued, and were in use for a decade.

President Soekarno strove to unify the multitude of ethnic groups living on the thousands of islands that constituted his country, and to develop Indonesia into a strong and prosperous nation. A delicate balancing act, since the major natural resources were found outside Java on thinly populated islands, whereas the central government on overpopulated Java (Javanese constitute almost 50% of the population) held the real power, and took in a disproportionate share of the national income. He faced a number of separatist movements, and was able to suppress them. Philatelically the most important was the RMS (Republic of the South Moluccas) in Eastern Indonesia in 1950, since postally used stamps are known of this movement. It was common practice for postal documents that required fiscal accountability to be eventually sent to postal headquarters archives in Bandung, West Java for safekeeping until the expiration of the claims period. Afterwards, legions of workers patiently cut out the postage stamps from used money orders and other types of forms, and pack them into small woven bamboo baskets for sale at auction to the public.



Stamps overprinted with “Republik Maluku Selatan”.

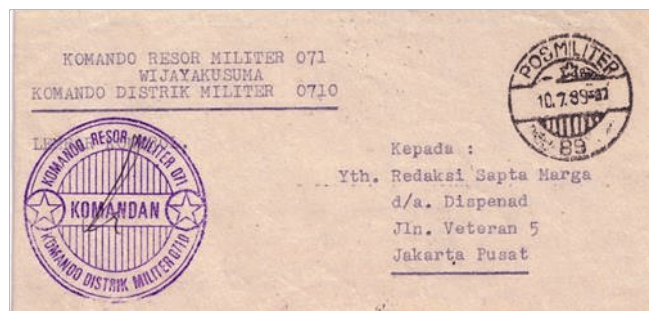
A lovely practice, long since abandoned but fondly remembered by this author, though he never found any RMS stamps. It is thought that this is the method whereby the used stamps fell into public hands. They are not to be confused with the numerous multi-colored pictorials, which are known only in mint condition, usually in stamp packets.

The PRRI – Permesta separatist movement in Sumatra and Sulawesi (Celebes) in the late 1950's presented a much more serious threat. Only Permesta issued their own stamps, and none appear to have seen used, other than philatelically.

Politically, Soekarno was instrumental in forging closer ties between non-aligned nations. A set of commemoratives was issued in 1955 for the Asian – African (AA) Conference in Bandung, in 1956 for AA university students, in 1963 for AA journalists, and in 1965 for the Islamic AA Conference. In the early sixties the non-aligned concept was broadened to include socialist countries, which were called the new emerging forces (NEFO). A set of eight stamps was issued in 1963 for the Games of the New Emerging Forces (GANEFU) in Jakarta. Two years later 15 Soekarno definitives, with surtax and many with new values, were re-issued with the inscription CONEFU (Conference of the New Emerging Forces).

Democracy, always a difficult concept to put in practice under the best of circumstances, was transformed into ‘Guided Democracy’ and the Presidency became an appointment for life. The economy was restructured in favour of state run companies. Stifling bureaucracy, mismanagement and graft ensued. Stamps tell the story: in 1950 the highest denomination was Rp 25, in 1964 it became Rp 500. Two years later, after devaluation of the currency, it became 25,000 (old) Rupiahs. To make matters worse, a military ‘confrontation’ developed with Malaysia (and indirectly with Great Britain) over the status of North Borneo. The Ramkema - Vosse catalog lists an unissued stamp to celebrate its unrealized re-unification, inscribed NKKU (initials for ‘Union of North Borneo’).

Much military mail exists from this period, mostly from the army. The bulk is unfranked and postmarked POS MILITER (Military mail), the date and the number of the unit or base. Other military mail comes from correspondence with units serving abroad, usually as part of United Nations peacekeeping missions. Naval mail is less common. Air force and police mail (the national police force at one time was the fourth element of the Indonesian armed forces) are rare.



Left: Army Service air letter sheet, postmarked POS TEN-TARA from a Sergeant Major in the Bogor (West Java) area in July 1951.

Right: Later postmarks bear the inscription of POS MILITER (Military Postal Services) like this 1989 letter from the Purwokerto (Central Java) based Wijayakusuma Command, a unit of the Diponegoro Division

Soekarno's calamitous 'Guided economy' policy, resulted in an annual inflation rate that reached 650% in 1966. A year earlier, Rp 8,100 bought US\$1 on the black market. In 1966 it took Rp 50,000.

During these difficult times a failed communist coup in late 1965 resulted in the removal of Soekarno from the presidency, which was formally handed over to Colonel Suharto, Commander of the Army's Strategic Command Forces in March, 1966. The New Order ('Orde Baru'; ORBA) had taken over from the old ('Orde Lama'; ORLA) and was open for business.

The new president's reign was marked by economic progress, mostly by encouraging private enterprise and above all, foreign investment. Because of this, and the large presence of the military in government, a much more stable atmosphere prevailed.

Five-year development plans were instituted, and stamp issues with this theme became a fixture. Much of the development was on Java, especially in and around the capital city, Jakarta. Philately was enriched by multitudes of new issues of medium to large multicolored stamps, often in miniature sheet format. Popular topics included native flora and fauna, such as the rhinoceros, komodo dragon, Sulawesi anoa (dwarf buffalo), babirusa, orang utan, and the 3-ft Rafflesia flower, national and regional arts and crafts, jewelry, weaponry, ethnic costumes, and hosting of, or participation in local, national, regional and international sporting, cultural and other events.



Representative example of the large, colorful topicals on souvenir sheets, which have become philatelic fixtures since the late 1960's. Often issued both perforated and imperforate. Orang Utan, Fauna 1989 on private FDC, Surabaya March 6

In 1975 the Portuguese decolonized East Timor, part of an island in Eastern Indonesia. In the ensuing turmoil, Indonesian troops entered the territory, which was then incorporated as the 27th province. After bloody struggles independence was gained in 1999 and the country subsequently known as the Republic of East Timor (Timor Leste, or Timor Lorosae) took its place among the pantheon of nations.



Left and top: Examples of Vending machine labels.

Several experiments with vending machine stamp labels were conducted in 1994 – 1996, but the venture never took off because of mechanical problems.

Numerous issues of the 1950's and 60's are known imperforate, with missing or misregistered colors. Of the more recent issues, mini-sheets are known in unseparated multiples or with incorrect or absent perforations. These appear to be unfinished stamps or printer's waste.



Top: one of many 5-year development plan stamps issued during Suharto's reign. Misregistered colors on horizontal gutter strip.

Stamp booklets were first issued in 1978. This activity continued for 3 years, then lay dormant for fifteen until 1996 when a booklet was issued for the joint stamp release with Australia.

Postage dues followed the old Dutch Indies motif by Snoek for several monotonous decades. In 1978, a number of the 1967 Musical Instruments postage stamps were overprinted 'Bajar porto' (Postage due) in red or black, some of them se-tenant, a few even inverted and se-tenant. Usage appears to have been exclusively philatelic.

Regular postage stamps are occasionally pressed into service as revenues, but the reverse does not happen very often, except in error or philatelic. Stamps inscribed "Sumbangan Ongkos Tjetak, or Cetak" (Printing cost donation) are used for administrative purposes to cover the cost of postal forms or ID cards.

Postal stationery from the 1950's was widely used by the public as a simple, inexpensive and efficient means of communication in this pre cell phone and email era. Later issues used more elaborate motifs, and saw limited use, mostly correspondence from participants in quizzes and competitions organized by various media, personal requests for musical hits to radio stations, and by philatelists. The use of stamp imprinted postal stationery is dwarfed, then as now, by formula postcards, letter sheets and envelopes.



Top: Dutch era postal card from Singkarak (straight line cancel) by way of the Solok post office. Both towns are on the West Coast of Sumatra, September 26, 1950 to Jakarta. Late use of the Sumatra Revolution cancel.

Middle: 10 sen postal card uprated with red meter for intercity use. Surabaya (East Java) August 12, 1953 to Purworejo (Central Java).

Bottom: Rp 600 pictorial postal card uprated with two Rp 1,000 stamps for registered, special delivery air mail service to the U.S. Surabaya May 18, 1996.

Though many stamps were issued with airplane motifs, post-1949 Indonesia has never issued airmail stamps. Pos Kilat (literally: Lightning (fast) mail) stamps, a form of special delivery were issued in 1968 but were soon used interchangeably with other stamps. Pos Kilat stationery could be used with or without adhesives. Pos Kilat Khusus (Special Pos Kilat mail) was launched in 1971. It had a form stapled to the envelope that was signed on receipt by the addressee, detached and returned to the sender. It was cumbersome and thus not always followed scrupulously. It was initially available to 220 cities and towns nationwide. Delivery was guaranteed in 24-48 hours, with limited compensation in case of loss.

Other plans followed, such as POS CANTA that guarantees citywide delivery in 8 hours, or less POS PATAS. For a while in the 1970's train markings were used between rail destinations on Java. Ship mail markings are rare, in contrast to the Dutch colonial era Royal Packet Navigation (KPM) markings. Private express intercity mail buses were in vogue since there was public demand for secure and speedy delivery of letters and packages. In order not to circumvent postal monopoly, regular postage fees were paid with postage stamps affixed to the items and cancelled by postal employees stationed at the bus depots.



POS KILAT, a type of special delivery service (Kilat = lightning).

Top: Lettersheet dispatched from Jakarta (Pejompongan branch on October 13, 1969) to Rembang (Central Java), arriving on the next day.

Middle: aerogramme with imprinted stamp of similar motif as above. Cancelled Semarang May 26, 1976. Philatelic use; no back stamp.

Bottom: Kilat Khusus (literally: Special special delivery) envelope. Surabaya June 19, 1987. Illegible backstamp. Large purple stamp is a local tourism promotional applied by the post office.



BOAT, BUS AND TRAIN MAIL

Top: dateless, probably 1950's business letter from Kuala Tungkal, Sumatra carried by the firm's vessel (M.S. Vong Ann(?) to Singapore.

Middle: Letter transported by express bus of the Index Company. Surabaya February 15, 1968, arriving in Jakarta the next day.

Bottom: postcard carried aboard a train from Semarang (Central Java) on May 11, 1970, to Jakarta.

Under Suharto, corruption, which was never seriously brought under control, became rampant. Coupled with the East Asiatic economic downturn in 1997 and student-led mass demonstrations against his autocratic rule, the situation became unstable and culminated in wide-spread riots in Jakarta and many other locations in May 1998 while the president was on a state visit to the Middle East. He hastily returned to the country, but could not salvage his position and was replaced by the Vice President. The Reformation ('Reformasi') movement had taken over from the defunct New Order. Around this time the highest stamp denomination was Rp 5,000 or 5 million pre-1965 Rupiahs.

In conclusion, the Soekarno era is a postal historian's dream. It offers numerous philatelic ramifications of a revolution, rebellions, regional issues and currency devaluations. An abundance of large, colorful pictorials and commemoratives, and numerous souvenir sheets mark the Suharto period. It is a thematic collector's paradise. Nonetheless, the philatelic legacy left by Soekarno the Liberator and Suharto the Builder is much more than just overprints and pretty pictures. There is philatelic documentation of a newly independent people shaking off the shackles of colonialism, struggling to find its identity, and getting down to the tough business of nation building. In the decade following, no less than four different presidents have come to power, among them Soekarno's eldest daughter. None have come even close to paralleling the legacy left by the first two.



Left: President Suharto, large 1983 pictorial. Margin horizontal gutter pair used from Moanemani, Papua (formerly Irian Jaya, Irian Barat, West New Guinea), 1989.

Right: The influential Mrs. Suharto, often called Ibu (Mother) Tien. Philatelic issue several months after her death in 1996, cropped from souvenir sheet.

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