

Dated Journal

Netherlands Philately
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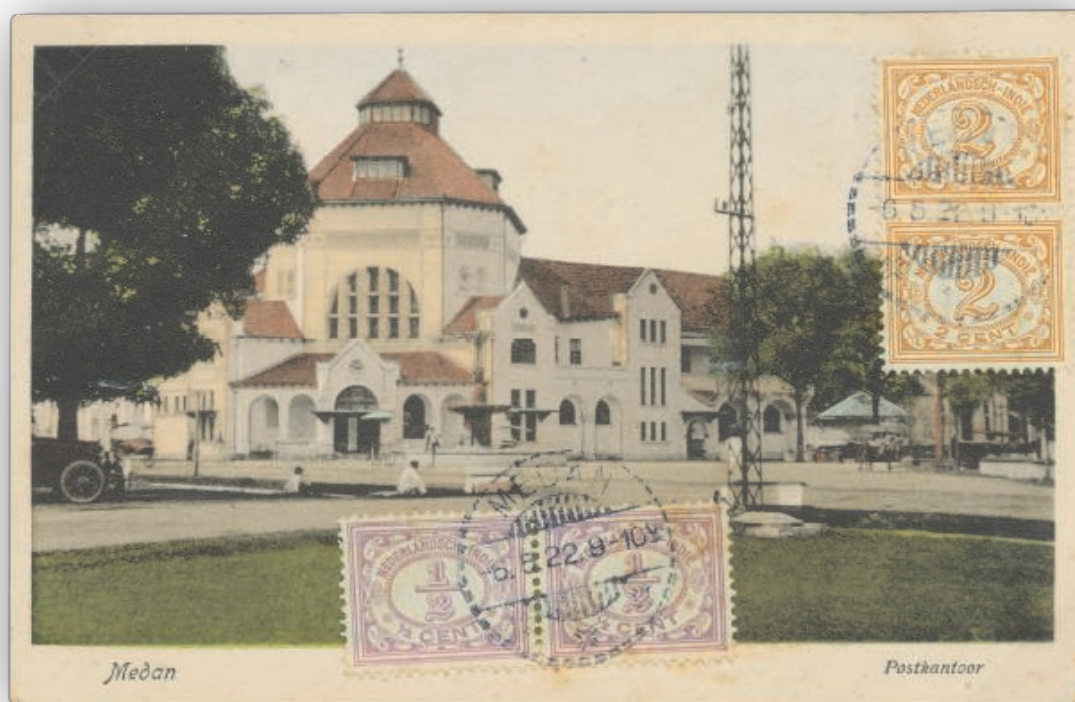
1975 - 2015

40 Years sharing knowledge of
Netherlands & Colonies philately

Netherlands Philately

Magazine of the American Society for Netherlands Philately

Volume 40/1



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NETHERLANDS PHILATELY

Magazine of the American Society for
Netherlands Philately; **Volume 40/1**

August 2015

Editor's message

Congratulations to the American Society for Netherlands Philately (ASNP) and its members. We have reached our 40th anniversary. An unbelievable achievement for a society set up in 1975 by its founding members who had a love, passion and desire for Netherlands & Colonies Philately and sharing this with the rest of the world. Not only had they in mind promoting general philately, but also the specialization area of Netherlands and (former) Colonies. Not an easy task on the world stage given that besides the collectors born and living in the Netherlands few are attracted to collecting a small country. There are way more world-wide collectors interested in the philately of the USA and the British Commonwealth. Of course I understand that promoting an area of interests outside the Fatherland/Motherland is a difficult subject, specially when the language is not based on English.

However as one of two societies in the world completely devoted to publish about Netherlands & Colonies philately in the English language making it this far is an achievement on its own. Still today we have 100 + magazines going out each time, world wide. Unfortunately the collector number is dropping world wide and we have to face that as well. I hope that by the time we are celebrating our 50th anniversary we can still talk about 100 + and secretly hope this will be 200 + by uniting all members and supporting the Netherlands & Colonies philately not only with words but also with deeds by showing our collections to others, holding presentations, giving away our old magazines to a new generation or simply pointing out the existence of the ASNP so that people can sign up via our website or via the form at the back of our magazine.

All the best from Adelaide and enjoy your 40th anniversary magazine,
Alex

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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.

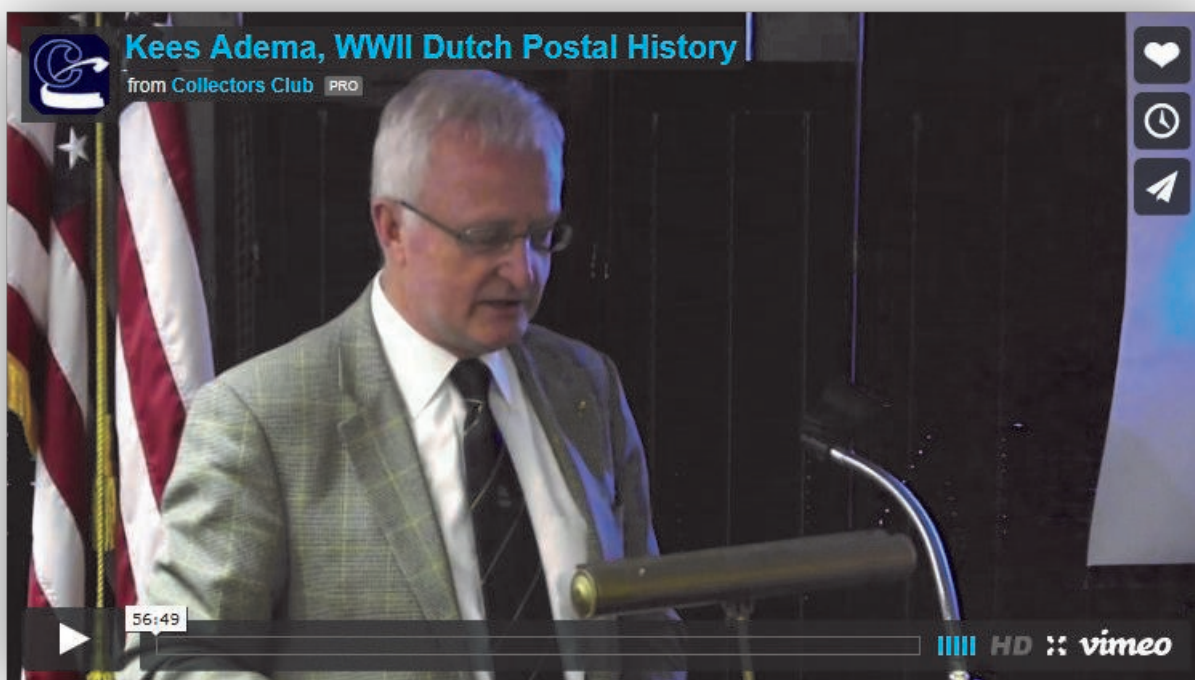
Potential authors are asked to send in full color scans (at 600 dpi) of their illustrations. I would like to receive the text in MS Word. Keep in mind that you clearly state where each illustration belongs in the article.

Contact the Magazine Editor in case of questions.

We start this issue with welcoming Jeffrey Brown, of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, as the newest member of our society. His area of interest are: Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, Netherlands Indies, Netherlands New Guinea, Suriname, Japanese Occupation N.I., Stationery & Covers, Cancellations. We hope you will become an active member contributing articles about the goodies in your collection.

Our member Kees Adema gave a presentation to The Collectors Club in New York about World War II postal history in the Netherlands. The video of this presentation is placed online and can be watched at <https://player.vimeo.com/video/128498998>

Readers who want to know more information about The Collectors Club please click on the following link to their website: <http://www.collectorsclub.org/>



Membership Renewal

Please renew your membership. If you receive a hardcopy, and the first four digits on the mailing label read 2015, you must renew your membership. Members receiving electronic versions will get a separate e-mail. Please pay by check, made out to ASNP, and mail to 1308 Pin Oak Drive, Dickinson, TX 77539, or use PayPal account mercator40@yahoo.com If in doubt, drop me a message (bjansen@uh.edu).

Your Secretary,

Ben Jansen.

1975

Message from the President

2015

by Ed Matthews

At the American Society for Netherlands Philately we are celebrating its 40th anniversary. Congratulations to us all! It is a downright Herculean task to make a Society function whose members are scattered all over the globe, and whose only lifeline to the Society is our Magazine. Not only all over the world, but also of many different backgrounds, with different personal interests in the area of Netherlands philately. Just paging through our Magazine you can get an idea of how varied the interests are.

Speaking of our Magazine, please take a look at one of the early numbers and compare this to today's issues with wonderful colored illustrations, enlarged details and so on. We have come a long way! So I daresay, we can (and should) be proud of our achievement. To some of us, who are "graduates" of the Netherlands and Colonial Philately (NCP), in a way the "grandparent" of the ASNP, the achievement is even more astounding. Then, if you wanted to show a stamp or a postmark in your article, you drew it as best you could!

And may I, yes again, encourage you to write an article about an aspect of Netherlands philately that is particularly interesting to you. Our Magazine is our lifeblood, let's keep it flowing and healthy!

Again, Happy Anniversary!

My interest in Dutch Stamps collection

by John Prince

Many many years ago when I was just about 10 years old, my father, who was employed by a big international corporation with its head quarters located in the UK, got transferred to the Netherlands. This happened around 1937. After coming out of the far East, this was quite a change, which I as a young boy actually welcomed.

We landed in Rotterdam where we took up residence. I without any hesitation acquainted myself with the local kids of which one of them was very much involved collecting stamps from all over the world. My new friend, of the same age as I, who knew that I came from far away and sometimes didn't have clue what I was talking about, his English knowledge being very poor and my Dutch being a total disaster, slowly overcame our language problems and as it turned out, we became life long buddies. Pim, his name, kept on asking me whether I had any stamps from the places I lived before and with the assistance of my dad I was able to help my new-found friend.

During this period and because of Pim's interest in stamps I also developed an "urge" to collect stamps! Dad noticed the development in me and one day came home with some special series of stamps, just issued by the Dutch post office, "Voor het Kind" (for the child) and bingo from that moment on I decided to start with my Dutch stamp collection. I have now a complete collection starting with the first issue and ending with some of the first issues when the Netherlands started issuing their first Euro value.

Since I am getting on in age I am planning to sell my entire collection which also includes booklets and FDCs. Basically this is the way I got involved in collecting Dutch stamps. It was a lot of fun. My Dutch friend Pim and I are still good buddies, getting together once a year.

John Prince

Why do I collect The Netherlands and Colonies Stamps?

by Robert Finder



The answer to the headlined question is, on the surface, relatively simple. As a child in the 1950's growing up in Missouri, a stamp packet was given to me by my parents that contained a Netherlands set, the 1949 "Kinderzegels" Summer stamps, NVPH 513-7. When I examined these, I immediately thought they were the "coolest" designed stamps I had ever seen, and it led me to start looking at all The Netherlands and Colonies stamps and I became a collector of the area as a young child.

Now, let us go back to the origins of why I wrote this article, as I believe my path to still be collecting The Netherlands and Colonies 60 years later, is at bit of an unusual path and may be interesting to the readers. Why is an American, now also an Aussie, who moved to Australia 16 years ago, and who does not speak nor read Dutch, still collecting stamps from a country group that is not that popular either in the USA nor Australia. Or, for that matter, why has he joined the American collecting group, ASNP, just a few years ago while living in Australia for over 16 years?

The reason I came to write this article is that I live in Adelaide, Australia as does your editor of this magazine, Alex Nuijten. Since I had just joined the ASNP, I was amazed when I saw the editor was moving to Adelaide, a few years ago, and that two ASNP members would be living in Adelaide, an Australian city that not many Americans even know exists. I reached out to Alex and we have met a few times to discuss our collecting interests. Alex asked me to write an article for the 40th Anniversary issue. Since I do not specialize in any particular aspect of Netherlands philately, and I am just a general collector of mint issues that were issued before 1972, it was difficult to think about what topic I should write about in the article. I asked Alex if I could just write an article about my collecting history and perhaps I would learn more about that 1949 "Kinderzegels" set, myself.

Like most American boys who collected stamps in the 1950's, I was collecting the general worldwide issues and the USA stamps, in particular. I was in the Boy Scouts and earned a "Stamp Collecting" merit badge. I eventually obtained a Scott USA album and a Minkus Global Album. But after discovering that 1949 set, I became more and more interested in The Netherlands and Colonies and lost interest in both the USA and worldwide issues.

By the age of 13, with the help of my parents, I had bought a Minkus The Netherlands and Colonies album and was subscribing to new issues from the Netherlands Post. I was also still collecting Korea (that is another story for another day), but other than Korea, I was strictly collecting only The Netherlands and Colonies. The problem for me, as for most teenagers, was finding the money to fund my collecting interests. I continued to collect on and off through my university days.

After graduating in 1970 with my Chemical Engineering degree, I met my soon-to-be wife, Sheryl, and then on Christmas Eve, received in the mail my draft notice for the USA Army. There was to be virtually no collecting of stamps while I was in the Army. After returning to the workforce, my business career overwhelmed my interest in stamps, and especially after we moved to Bangkok, Thailand in 1985, for the 7 years we were living there, I almost totally lost interest in stamps, although I still received some philately-related magazines. We moved back to the USA, near New York City in the early 1990's and my collecting ceased almost completely.

We moved again, this time to Australia in 1999, and it appears that this is our last country move. In 2008 due to good luck with some business decisions, I was able to semi-retire, and with more time available, my interests in collecting The Netherlands and Colonies was resurrected, and I became a much more serious collector than ever before.

It is not easy being a serious The Netherlands and Colonies collector when you do not speak nor read Dutch, and while also living in Australia. When I started collecting again, I was still using the Scott catalog system. I discovered the NVPH Speciale Catalogues, of course, written in Dutch. And to my dismay, the more that I went into Dutch philately, the more I discovered how little information was published in English.

In my quest for English information I found the ASNP.

In addition, one of the best things that encouraged my Dutch collecting occurred when I met the Dutch/Canadian/American, The Netherlands stamp dealer, Robert Janning, through his website (www.netherlandsStamps.com) in 2008. Robert has since been a fantastic resource in helping me with my collecting needs, translating articles, finding me articles/books in English on Dutch philately, and in general education about Dutch stamp collecting. He even gave me some good information about the "Kinderzegels" and "Zomerzegels" stamps, much of this follows in this article.

Now, let us return to that 1949 "Kinderzegels" set. What have I learned about it? Robert explained to me the difference between the "Zomerzegels" and the "Kinderzegels" stamps. The "Zomerzegels" were issued for a specific welfare purpose. For example, the first set that The Netherlands issued for these purposes was the NVPH 84-6 Tuberculosis Society issue. The Netherlands was the first country to issue stamps for a social benefit with this Tuberculosis Society issue. The "Kinderzegels" were issued for child welfare, and the first set was NVPH 141-2 issued in 1924. As mentioned, Netherlands was the first country in the world to issue these social benefits or "semi-postals" which were given a separate class in Scott's and Minkus catalogs/albums with the "B" designation, but not differentiated in the NVPH. These types of stamps became popular in The Netherlands and Colonies and some other countries, but they were not issued until later years in the USA and never became that successful in the USA.

I found that the first time that the postage value and the amount for the charity surcharge value were shown separately on a Dutch issue was on the 1942, NVPH 402-3 issue, with a 12½ ct regular postage value and a 87½ ct charity surcharge. Robert tells me that because of the high surcharge, plus the fact that it was issued during the German occupation and the designation of the funds not clear, that the set was not popular in Holland with collectors. As a result this set is very difficult to find on cover where it is postally used.

After WWII, the Dutch government decided to continue to show separately the postage value and the surcharge on these semi-postal charity stamps.

I also discovered, by talking to Robert, that Dutch school children used to go door-to-door selling these “Kinderzegels” issues. They were given packets to show the customers, and they were small, containing just a couple of the most common mint values. The children were also given ID cards and started selling these issues by taking orders from customers after showing them the mint stamps in the packets. This practice sounds very similar to me as what some children used to do in the USA in the 1950-60’s by selling Christmas seals door-to-door.

Robert, himself, did the rounds of selling the 1948 issues, NVPH 508-12, when he was 15 years old. A good question for the ASNP members, is, if any of the members know more about this practice, and when the Dutch children ceased selling these issues door-to-door? Robert had the ID card and the card with the stamps in his collection, but he has since misplaced them. If any ASNP member has access to these ID cards and stamps with the card, it would be excellent if they could share photos of them with the membership. I am very interested in these cards for that favorite of mine, the 1949 set.

The NVPH shows that for the 1949 NVPH 513-17 issue, the printings were 1,093,431 for the 2 +2 ct; 749,987 for the 6 +4ct; 946,757 for the 10+5 ct; and 742,854 for the 20+5ct. The 2015 catalog value is € 17 in MHN condition. I would be very interested in hearing other information about this issue from members, especially anything about the designers and if they designed other Dutch stamps.

Robert tells me there is a good reference for the “Kinderzegels” in detail. It is a book by C. Demoor, title: Postzegelkunst, with 30 pages, in Dutch, that discusses the “Kinderzegels” and covers the years 1946-1958. Perhaps I can get Alex to translate all this pages for me!

This article ends with a personal observation. As I write this article, my wife and I have just returned last week to Australia from a visit to my Mother and family in Missouri. I had always thought that my paternal ancestors, “The Finders”, had immigrated to Missouri from Germany and that my paternal background was German. When I was visiting my Mother on this trip, I found some historical documents about the background of the Finder family, including the ship manifest from when the Finder family first immigrated to the USA.

The ship’s manifest shows them as being from Holland and it turns out, that they were Dutch! They lived in the town of Nieuw-Schoonbeek, close to the German border before moving to the USA. Bob Janning tells me that the Nieuw-Schoonebeek area was a very poor area in Holland, they probably immigrated to the USA for better opportunities. They did leave on the ship from a German port and entered the USA in the port of New Orleans in 1845, and moved that year to Missouri, where they became farmers with land given free at the time by the USA to foreign settlers. In any event, it appears with my “Dutch” background, I was destined to collect stamps from The Netherlands and Colonies.

Response from the Editor

First of all Robert welcome to the Dutch Clan. I’m sure I can show you some cultural experiences you haven’t encountered yet.

Robert and I have met a few times since I live here and he has been introduced to my (messy) stamp room. Unfortunately I don’t have enough space to turn it into a paradise yet. When he was introduced to the stamp room I was busy sorting the 2 cent of the 1923 Jubilee issue on perforations before I start on a full plate reconstruction. He looked at the pile of 2 cent stamps asked me how many to go. I answered about 3000 stamps and looked at me and got surprised with the answer and started to laugh.

Then I said then we have the 5 cent, 7½ cent and the 10 cent in similar numbers. Roberts eyes looked very surprised and he said to me, you have some work cut out. I looked at him and said, you haven't seen this then, I grabbed a stock book full of the fur collar issue 1899-1924 that has to be sorted out on plate varieties, followed by a box I got from the shelf of which the contents was one value of the fur collar issue bundled up in bundles of 100 stamps. I showed him some other boxes containing similar contents of the same issue and said I just lost count of how many to go after roughly 500.000 stamps.

During our meetings I showed him some exhibits that I have set up to promote (Dutch) philately. In his responses I did see a glimpse of inspiration to collect beyond the mint stamps alone. Time will tell where his passion will go.

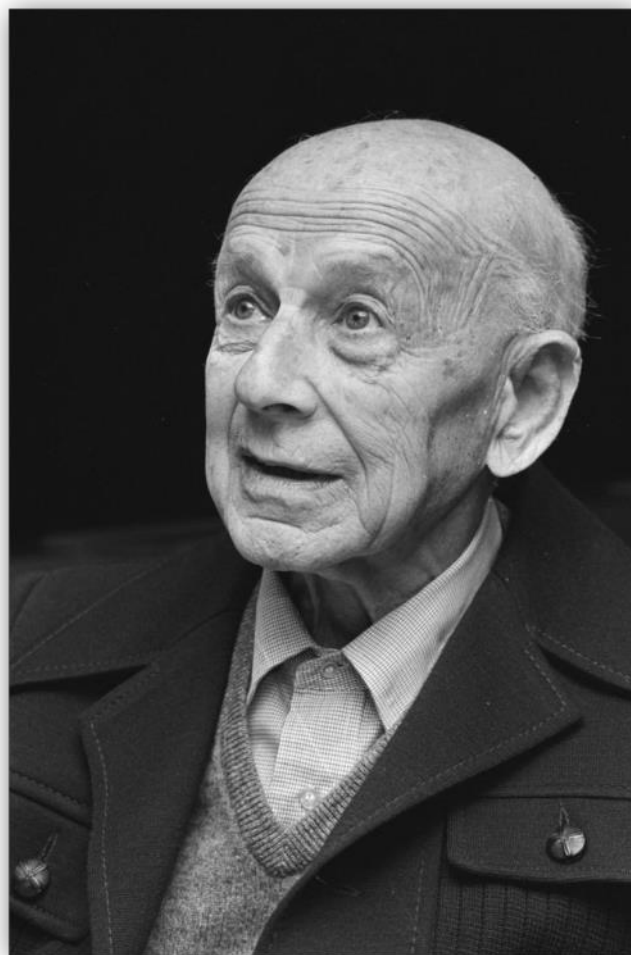
Anyway back to Roberts 1949 Child Welfare stamps. First of all I'm happy to sit and read the book to help you with translation of it. However if my instinct is right I know a better source for you to read. Probably after I translated it since it is written in Dutch. It is called *Handboek Postwaarden Nederland* and written by four authors (two of the authors are a member of our Society) and supported by more volunteers. I know you have not seen that book on my shelves, since it was well hidden.

So I had a quick look, as I'm missing the episodes from the last few years, and in there I found the chapter of the 1949 Child Welfare issue has been written out. Lucky you as I have most likely the only copy of this bookwork in Australia! Remind me next time we meet I have to bring it so you can have a look. For our members in the US I think there is also a copy in our library.

In reply to your question did the designer Paul Citroen create any other stamps beside the 1949 "zomerzegels"? I haven't seen any other stamp issue designed by him, but I can be mistaken. What I do have is the episode of the 1949 "Zomerzegels" from the *Handboek Postwaarden Nederland* and in here I came across a background of Paul Citroen together with the interesting design aspects of that set. I think I have to do some more translation work for you.

Further there is a small Wikipedia page about him. You probable noticed it, but the photo on the right shows Paul Citroen and was taken in 1981.

In reply towards your question about the practice of children selling Child Welfare Stamps door -to-door each year, I can tell you that that is still going on. In fact I did it myself as a young boy. I have no clear idea yet what you mean with the ID card, but my instinct tells me we are looking at a term called "Kinderbedank kaart", Child thank you card. But I'm not sure so we will have nice discussion about that next time we meet.



Paul Citroen in 1981.

*Photo taken by Hans van Dijk,
Nationaal Archief Fotocollectie Anefo
<http://www.gahetna.nl>*

De Hoon Postdienst

by Alex Nuijten

As a Dutch expat it can be challenging to obtain interesting material from the collecting area Netherlands and/or (former) overseas Colonies. Most times you rely on striking philatelic gold on EBay or from an auction house. However sometimes the luck of having family living overseas and keeping the mail aside for you can be the best next thing for obtaining material.

The cover reported on next turned out to be philatelic gold.

Private mail companies in the Netherlands

A brief overview regarding the position of private mail companies in the Netherlands has to be given first to understand the concept behind this story.

The passage of the Postal Act of 1850 established the postal service as a service in the public interest, and codified the postal service's domestic monopoly. The Postal Act concerned letters only, but in due course the postal service also offered other services such as printed matter and parcel mail. Most of the public understood at the time that mail could only be delivered by the official post office, which was a major misconception. Over time the law was eased, but between 1850 and 1969 several private mail companies actually operated during brief periods of time. In 1969 the law was changed and clearly written out, in much of favor of a new era of private mail companies in the Netherlands. Since then there have been over a 1000 private companies registered and/or in operation. The letter monopoly was still with the PTT in 1969, but it was cleared up what was a letter and what not. The last monopoly position, for letters up to 50 gram was lifted on 1 April 2009, favoring the private mail companies for an open and competitive market.

In contrast, the “national postal service company”, which is also a private mail company these days, must win a contract from the government for a certain number of years and is therefore bound to certain restrictions to ensure that there is still a “proper” postal service active across the country.

de Hoon Postdienst

De Hoon Postdienst is a private mail company located in the town of Rijen.

Rijen and Gilze, or Gilze-Rijen is well-known by the Dutch. The name grew historically from the name “Gilze en Rijen” which was used for an independent parish that was founded in 1524. In time the word “en” (meaning “and”) was left out by the people as it was easier to pronounce. This explains the name Gilze-Rijen in the company’s logo.



Company logo from de Hoon Postdienst

De Hoon Postdienst was started on 11 October 1999 by Mr. G.A.A.M. de Hoon according to the records of the Chamber of Merchandise in the Netherlands.

Since that date there has not been any change of ownership and as far as is known the company was operated continuously by the same person till 31 October 2009, when the records indicate that no employees are working there. Although there are no records showing people being employed by de Hoon Postdienst, the website indicates that potential delivery persons (“bezorger” in Dutch) can apply, as shown by the snapshot of the website below.

What else is known about this company? To tell the truth not much besides the postal rates charged as of 1 January 2014 till date, which are mentioned in the table below, and the delivery areas.

The company offers also a service for national delivery as part of taking care of all the mail from a business, but this means

the national postal rate was charged. A significant detail is that the name of TNT post is mentioned on the website. In May 2011 TNT changed its name into PostNL. TNT and later PostNL are the national delivery companies who won the contracts from the government (see the history at the beginning on the article). This indicates that the national delivery service by de Hoon Postdienst has been offered for some years.

The screenshot shows the website 'de Hoon Postdienst' with a navigation bar containing links: HOME, WIE ZIJN WIJ, BEZORGGEBIED, TARIEVEN, BEZORGER WORDEN?, and REFERENTIES. The main content area is titled 'Bezorger worden?' and includes a sub-header 'Geïnteresseerden kunnen zich aanmelden via onderstaand formulier.' Below this is a registration form with fields for 'Naam *', 'E-mailadres *', and 'Bericht *'. There is a checkbox for 'Stuur mij een kopie' and a 'Verzenden' button. At the bottom of the page, there is a 'Start Download' section with a link to 'Convert Any File to a PDF. Get the Free FromDocToPdf Toolbar!' and a copyright notice '© 2010 - 2015 Dehoonpostdienst.jouwweb.nl'.

The webpage where local interested people can apply for becoming a mail deliverer.

Weight	Single items/ mailings up to 100 pieces	Mailings from 100 up to 250 pieces	Mailings from 250 pieces and more
0-20 gram	€ 0,34	€ 0,26	€ 0,25
20-50 gram	€ 0,55	€ 0,35	€ 0,28
50-100 gram	€ 0,80	€ 0,45	€ 0,35
100-250 gram	€ 1,10	€ 0,60	€ 0,50
250-500 gram	€ 1,60	€ 0,80	€ 0,60

The rates table with prices in Euro's (€) per piece excluding 21% GST (or in Dutch "BTW")

Further the maximum size of the mail item is restricted to 38 x 36.5 x 3.2 cm.

De Hoon Postdienst also split the delivery area in two sections, with once a week and twice a week delivery, depending on the first four numbers of the national postcode system. In the tables on the following pages all the postcodes vs. major towns/cities within that area are listed.

Postcode	City/town
4849	Dorst
4900	Oosterhout
4901	Oosterhout
4902	Oosterhout
4903	Dorst
4904	Oosterhout
4905	Oosterhout
4906	Den Hout
4907	Oosterhout
4908	Oosterhout
4909	Oosteind
4911	Den Hout
4920	Made
4921	Made
4924	Drimmelen
4926	Lage Zwaluwe
4927	Hooge Zwaluwe
4930	Geertruidenberg
4931	Geertruidenberg
4940	Raamsdonksveer
4941	Raamsdonksveer
4942	Raamsdonksveer
4944	Raamsdonk

Postcode	City/town
5052	Goirle
5053	Oisterwijk
5056	Berkel-Enschot
5057	Berkel-Enschot
5059	Heukelom
5060	Oisterwijk
5061	Oisterwijk
5062	Oisterwijk
5063	Oisterwijk
5066	Oisterwijk
5070	Udenhout
5071	Udenhout
5074	Biezenmortel
5076	Haaren
5080	Hilvarenbeek
5081	Hilvarenbeek
5084	Hilvarenbeek
5085	Esbeek
5087	Diessen
5089	Haghorst
5091	Oost West en Mid- delbeers
5094	Lage Mierde

Postcode	City/town
5095	Hooge Mierde
5096	Hulsel
5140	Waalwijk
5141	Waalwijk
5142	Waalwijk
5143	Waalwijk
5144	Sprang - Capelle
5145	Waalwijk
5146	Waalwijk
5150	Drunen
5151	Drunen
5152	Drunen
5154	Drunen
5160	Sprang - Capelle
5161	Sprang - Capelle
5162	Waspik
5165	Raamsdonk
5170	Kaatsheuvel
5171	Kaatsheuvel
5172	Kaatsheuvel
5175	Loon op Zand
5176	De Moer

The delivery areas where once a week is delivered.

Dit poststuk is bezorgd door
De Hoon Postdienst, Gilze-Rijen
 Bij foutieve bezorging s.v.p.
 niet in P.T.T. bus deponeren
 Info: 06-21208898

Up till now, only one type of postmark has been recorded, see image above, and the ink color used is red. The letter height is 2 mm. and the distance between the lines is 1 mm.

Further there is only one cover recorded to be in collectors hands, and it is shown below.

In addition to the red postmark of De Hoon Postdienst, a stamp of PostNL has also been affixed and cancelled by the mail sorting center in Rotterdam, 4 June 2014 14-22 (2pm-10pm).

Postcode	City/town
5000	Tilburg
5001	Tilburg
5002	Tilburg
5003	Tilburg
5004	Tilburg
5011	Tilburg
5012	Tilburg
5013	Tilburg
5014	Tilburg
5015	Tilburg
5017	Tilburg
5018	Tilburg
5021	Tilburg
5022	Tilburg
5025	Tilburg
5026	Tilburg
5032	Tilburg
5035	Tilburg

Postcode	City/town
5036	Tilburg
5037	Tilburg
5038	Tilburg
5041	Tilburg
5042	Tilburg
5043	Tilburg
5044	Tilburg
5045	Tilburg
5046	Tilburg
5047	Tilburg
5048	Tilburg
5049	Tilburg
5050	Goirle
5051	Goirle
5100	Dongen
5101	Dongen
5102	Dongen
5103	Dongen

Postcode	City/town
5104	Dongen
5105	Dongen
5106	Dongen
5107	Dongen
5109	's Gravenmoer
5110	Baarle - Nassau
5111	Baarle -Nassau
5113	Ulicoten
5114	Baarle - Nassau
5120	Rijen
5121	Rijen
5122	Rijen
5124	Molenschot
5125	Hulten
5126	Gilze
5130	Alphen
5131	Riel
5133	Riel

The delivery areas where twice a week is delivered.

That the cover is franked with a postage stamp of PostNL is not strange since the cover would have been sent to a postcode (4826) just outside the delivery area, and the mail company does offer to frank and send away mail via PostNL as well. This combination makes it easier for companies to get their mail sorted and save on staff and postage costs where possible. However the postmark stating it has been delivered by De Hoon Postdienst is not exactly true. The phrase “Bij foutieve bezorging s.v.p., niet in P.T.T. bus deponeren, info: 06-21208898” states, in short, that if delivered to the wrong address to call the company to pick it up. This could be an expensive collecting trip if it has to be delivered on the other side of the country!



The cover has been donated to the research archives (a non-profit foundation) of the Studiegroep Particuliere Postbezorging in the Netherlands, so it can be studied by every collector interested in this material.

What happened to the money of the 1944 Red Cross perfin surcharge?

by Hans Kremer

Although the 1944 the 2 cents Red Cross perfin is described in the NVPH catalog as a 'private made to order' product, it is shown by the number of responses to the Stamp Blog of March 3, 2015 (<http://www.postzegelblog.nl/2015/03/03/geperforeerd-kruis-1944/>), that it nevertheless is a stamp/perfin which has the interest of the collector.



Fig. 1, 1944 Red Cross Perfin

The background of these stamps has been discussed at some length in the first two references listed at the end of this article.

The perforated stamps were available during an exhibition of Red Cross stamps in the Pulchri Studio in The Hague on 2 and 3 June 1944. It was organized by the Ligue Internationale Philatélique et Aerophilatélique (L.I.P.A.). The "big man" behind this association was Gerard Thoolen, who in 1929 was one of the founders of this association. What this, mainly airmail oriented association, had to do with Red Cross stamps I don't know.

A total of 200,000 numbered stamps, perforated with a cross and the words "PRIJS 15 CENT, toeslag ten bate Ned. Roode Kruis" (PRICE 15 CENTS surcharge to benefit the Dutch Red Cross) on the back of the stamps.

In the article in *Philately Informatief* it says: "According to Thoolen an amount of fl. 26,000 - was paid to the Dutch Red Cross."

This amount of fl. 26,000, was based on the surcharge of 13 cents per perforated stamp.

The remark "According to Thoolen" shows that there was some doubt whether the fl. 26.000, - was indeed paid.

Mr. Thoolen had a questionable reputation, which most likely was the basis of the doubt.

Fortunately, in the archives of the Dutch Red Cross (NRK) in The Hague the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee of the NRK were available.

The first time the Red Cross hears about this exhibition is on May 4, 1944.

Board Meeting on Thursday 4 May 1944.

Mr. Offerhaus mentions that he was visited by the Secretary of the National Philatelic Association, in connection with a stamp Exhibition in the Pulchri Studio, whose benefit would be paid to the Ned. Red Cross.

It was decided that a series of Red Cross stamps issued to mark the 70th anniversary of the Ned. Red Cross would be loaned out for this exhibition."

Then it is quiet, until, when on May 31, the following announcement appears in several Dutch newspapers (Fig. 2)

Apparently this announcement surprised the Red Cross.

Board Meeting on Thursday 1 June 1944.

3. Some announcements are made regarding the Stamp Exhibition to be held on 2 and 3 June. All those present at the meeting show their surprise at the press article in the newspapers yesterday, in which is talk about collaboration with Ned. Red Cross, which they were not aware of.

It is decided to still send the album with the Red Cross stamps to the exhibition, provided it is properly insured by the organizers of the exhibition.

The same day the "Ned. Bond van Vereenigingen van Postzegelverzamelaars" (NBVP) (Dutch Federation of Associations of Stamp Collectors (NBVP)) is alarmed (Fig. 3).

In the letter the NBVP asks for a clarification of the Red Cross' involvement, especially since LIPA is not a member of the NBVP.

It states that he NBVP members should know the background information of such a private issue. The NBVP also offers advice if requested by the Red Cross.

The very next day, on 2 June 1944 NBVP put a warning in the newspaper (Figure 4).



Fig.2 May 31, 1944 Announcement of the sale of 150,000 (!) perfins benefitting the Dutch Red Cross.

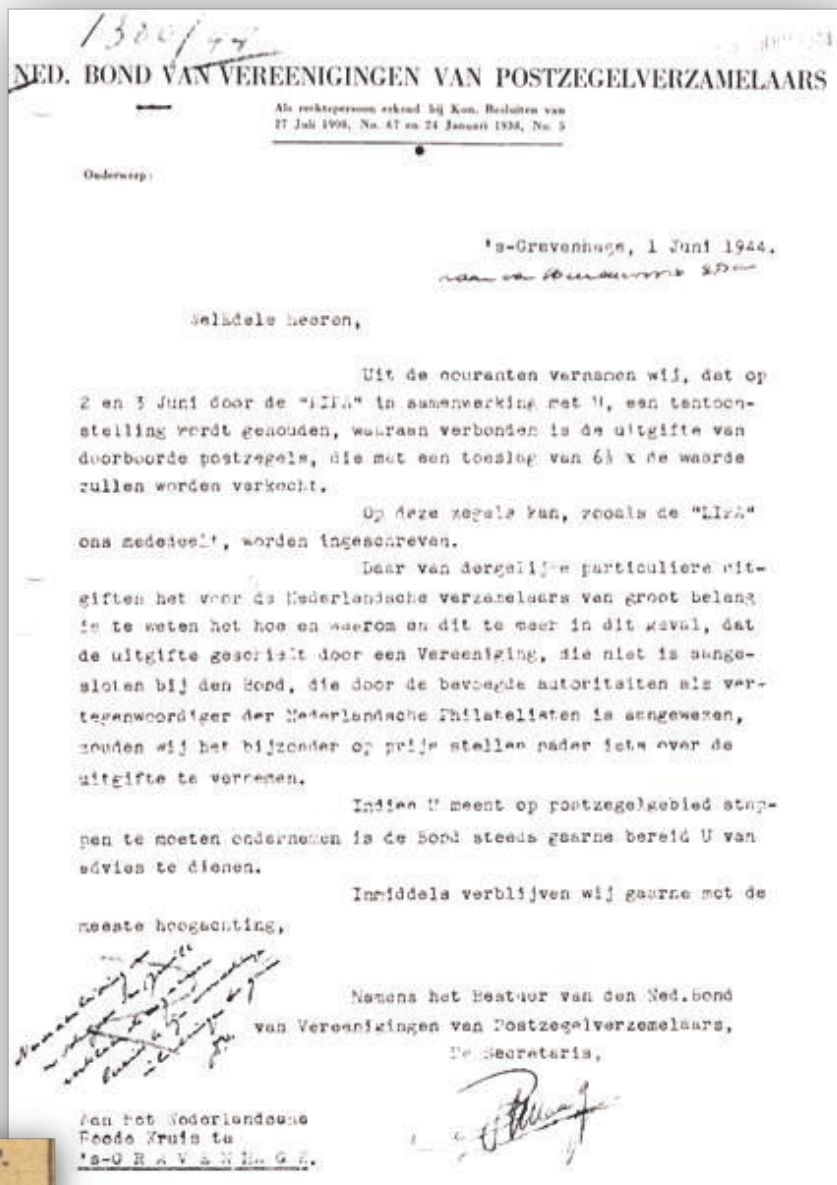


Fig. 3 June 1, 1944 Letter of the NBVP to the Dutch Red Cross, right.



Fig. 4 June 4, 1944; Announcement from NBVP stating that the perfin is a private issue and as such has no collector's value and will not be in the NVBP catalog, left.

Board Meeting on Thursday 8 June 1944.

4 Mr. Offerhaus gives an overview of the 'stamp affair' and the un-authorized use of the Red Cross emblem on posters and postcards. Therefore he proposes not to accept the expected payment of the 13 ct., for each perforated stamp

After some exchange of views a large majority decides not to accept the promised money It is further decided that the Secretary General will discuss this matter with the Public Prosecutor before taking further steps.

Board Meeting on Thursday 15 June 1944.

16. As regards to the stamp affair (see item 4 of the previous minutes) Mr. Offerhaus had an interview with Mr. Block. According to the Public Prosecutor the question of fraud is weak, but the un-authorized use of the Red Cross emblem can certainly be proved in a positive sense.

In the case that there is no verdict against L.I.P.A. the Red Cross can accept the amount of the surcharge without objection. If, in the mean time, even before the ruling, money is paid, then that can be accepted conditionally. Mr. Block offered his help with some low-key publicity in the press.

Board Meeting on Thursday 22 June 1944.

8. The offer of the L.I.P.A. to complement the Red Cross' collection of Red Cross stamps will be rejected.

Board Meeting on Thursday 20 July 1944.

6. A letter from Mr. A. Mout stating that fl. 26,000, on behalf of the L.I.P.A. is at the disposal of the Netherlands Red Cross is read aloud. It was decided to inform the Public Prosecutor

Board Meeting on Thursday 27 July 1944.

7. A notice is made of a letter from the Public Prosecutor in The Hague in response to the communication from Mr. Mout concerning the deposit of an amount of fl. 26,000, by the L.I.P.A.

Board Meeting on Thursday, 3 August 1944.

9. A copy of a letter from Mr. Mout on behalf of the L.I.P.A. will be sent to the Public Prosecutor. The letter itself will be registered.

Board Meeting on Thursday 17 August 1944.

13. Mr. Offerhaus announces that after a visit from Mr. Vree, Secretary of the L.I.P.A. an other letter from lawyer Mr. Mout was received, in which he apologizes for the last letter he had sent on behalf of his client; the letter was co-signed by Mr. Vree.

Mr. Offerhaus now proposes to accept the f. 26.000, which are offered unconditionally. The board agrees with this. The decision regarding the distribution of this amount is postponed.

This puts an end to the discussion and the Red Cross on 18 August 1944 sent the following letter to Mr.

Text of the letter:

18 August 1944.

REGISTERED

Based on your letter of the 14th of this month and the latest discussion, which previously had taken place between the Secretary-General of the Dutch Red Cross and Mr. F.C. Vree, the Board of Directors of the Dutch Red Cross has decided to come back from its refusal of August 8. and as yet accepts the amount of f.26.000, except that there are no further conditions and that the Dutch Red Cross rejects any liability in connection with the sale of the stamps in question. Regarding this you are asked to bring the amount mentioned to the Red Cross Head Office on a working day before 12 o'clock in exchange of a receipt.

For the Board of Directors

the Secretariat-General

(Dr. H. K. Offerhaus)

The Honorable
Mr. A. Mout
Heerenstraat 13
's-Gravenhage

Note:

I have not been able to verify that the money indeed was received by the Red Cross, but it sure looks that way.

Refs:

Gert Holstege and Jan Vellekoop, *Achtergronden van de Nederlandse postzegelproductie tijdens de Duitse bezetting in de Tweede Wereldoorlog*, Filatelie Informatief, Bohn, Stafleu, van Loghum, November 1992

Harold F. MacDonald and Larry Rhem, *The Perforated Cross*, Netherlands Philately, Vol. 8/1, May 1983

Archives of the Dutch Red Cross, The Hague

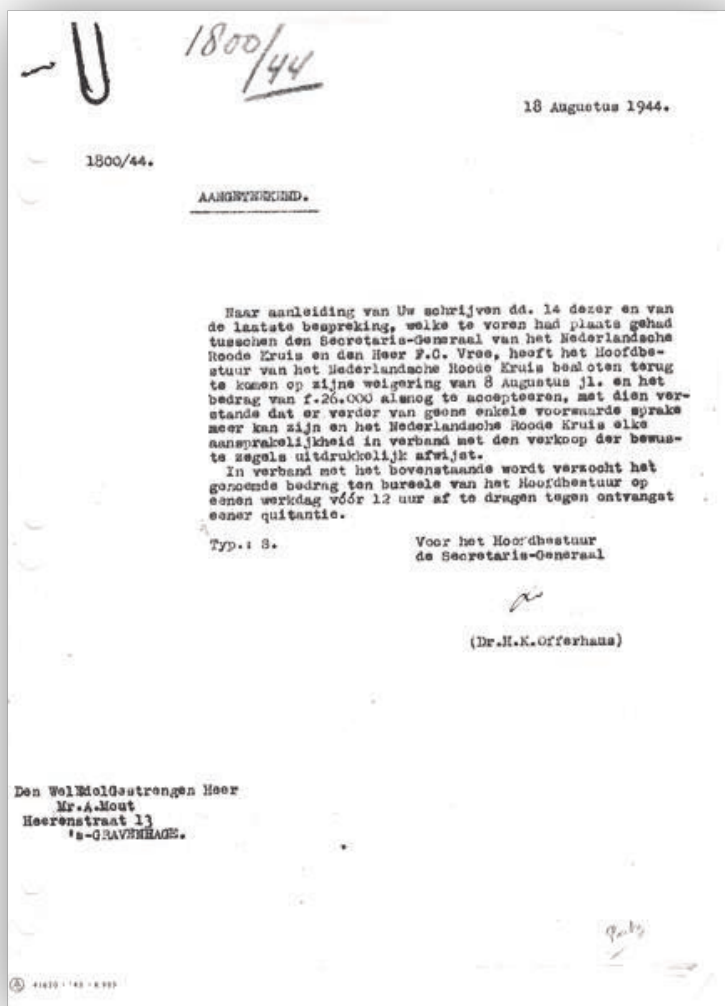


Fig. 5 Letter dated August 18, 1944 from the Red Cross to L.I.P.A.

Intercepted by Germany

by Ben. H. Jansen

I have had the cover shown in Figure 1 in my collection for a while. The cover is franked with the 12.5 cent 'fur collar' Queen Wilhelmina stamp (NVPH 63) and received an Amsterdam date cancel of January 17, 1917 (the date is hard to read). Striking features are the paper label with the text "Militärischerseits unter Kriegsrecht geöffnet" (opened by the military as allowed by the law of war), and the black 'aangehouden door Duitsland, 1916-17' (intercepted by Germany, 1916-17) hand stamp. The reason for this label and hand stamp were unclear to me, until I received a copy of the book written by Dehé and Simons [1]. They wrote that ships of the Stoomvaart Maatschappij Zeeland (SMZ, Steamship Company Zeeland), carrying mail to England, were intercepted by German war ships, and that much of this mail was not delivered until after the conclusion of World War 1. Cited in [1] is a publication by Hintzen [2] about the postal markings placed on the intercepted stationery upon their eventual delivery.



Figure 1: Cover from Amsterdam to London, mailed on January 17, 1917 from Amsterdam to London.

These sources, plus some sleuthing in old newspapers and the world-wide web led to the following, partially correcting and/or extending Hintzen's publication.

A ferry service between Vlissingen (Flushing) and England across the North Sea Channel was maintained by the Stoomvaart Maatschappij Zeeland (SMZ, Steamship Company Zeeland) from 1875 through 1939 (and from Hook of Holland through 1989) [3]. The ferry service became well-known because of the excellent connections it provided with the rest of Europe through the railway station Vlissingen, which was adjacent to the departure hall of the SMZ. Also, the mail contract maintained by SMZ made that their ships became known as mail boats

The departure ports on the English side changed frequently over the years, but were Queenborough (day service) and Folkestone (day service) from 1911. However, when World War I started in August 1914, Queenborough was closed for Dutch vessels. When Germany declared 'unlimited submarine warfare,' SMZ suspended the regular services as of February 1, 1917. Services were resumed January 31, 1919, initially to Gravesend, and later to Folkestone.

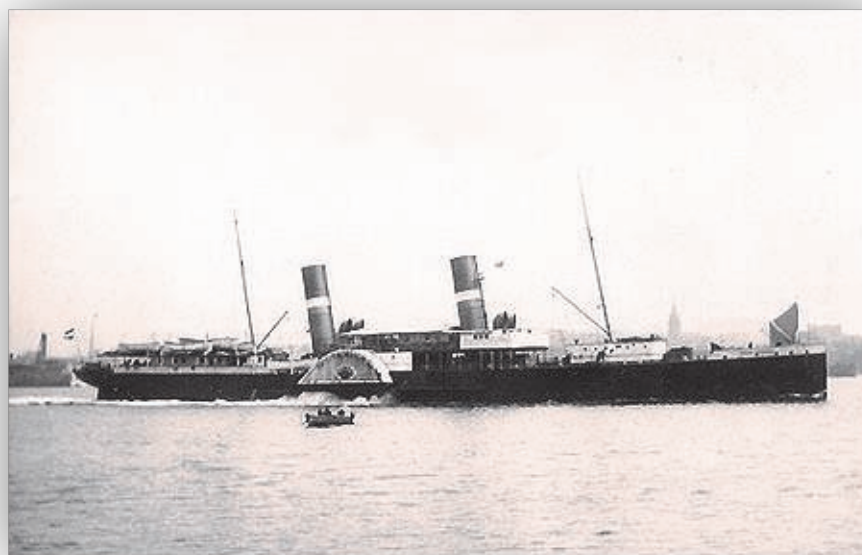


Figure 2: The paddleboat Prins Hendrik of the SMZ

Sailing across the Channel during World War I was not without danger; between February and July 1916, three SMZ ships (the Prinses Juliana, Mecklenburg, and Konining Wilhelmina) ran into mines and were lost. Also, on two occasions ships were intercepted by the German marine; the Koningin Regentes on November 10, 1916, and Prins Hendrik (see Figure 2) on January 19, 1917. Both ships were involved in the day service of the SMZ ferry operations. In case of the Prins Hendrik, the Middelburgsche Courant of January 22, 1917 reports [4] that the ship was intercepted in the morning of Friday, January 19, shortly after it had left the territorial waters. Three German torpedo boats guided the Prins Hendrik to Zeebrugge, while two airplanes kept a watchful eye. Three Belgian nationals (and the wife of one) and three French nationals were taken off the ship. The Prins Hendrik remained in Zeebrugge on Friday, but was brought to Ostend (Oostende) early on Saturday morning, where the mail was inspected. Initially all mail and packets were taken off the ship but part of it was returned later. Around 2:30 pm, the ship was allowed to leave Oostende and was escorted through the mine field and, after consultation with headquarters by radio, it returned to Vlissingen, according to the Middelburgsche Courant. Hintzen wrote that the ship was allowed to leave the same day it was intercepted, but that seems to be contradicted by the newspaper article.



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The mail seized by the Germans was sent to the German censor service in Berlin. While some mail was eventually delivered to England through the 'Prisenamt' in Hamburg (Germany), a large quantity of mail was kept in Berlin and not get delivered until after the conclusion of the war.

The cover shown in Figure 1 received an Amsterdam date cancel of January 17, 1917. Since, as early as August 20, 1914, all mail to and from the Netherlands had to be delayed by 24 hours to prevent the sending of actual news [1], the January 17 date of the postmark makes it likely that the letter was put on a boat leaving January 19. In other words, it was likely carried by the Prins Hendrik and among the mail that was confiscated and kept in Berlin for the duration of the war. The paper censor label attests to that.

Hintzen [2] writes that no written explanation why the mail was kept in Berlin has been found, but he speculates that the name of the sender or addressee, and/or the contents of the letter created suspicion by the German censor. My envelope was sent by Maurits van Beever, living on the Nieuwe Achtergracht 102. A list of recent telephone connections in the 'Nieuws van den Dag' of February 3, 1903, suggests that this must refer to Maurits G. van Beever (probably born as Mozes Godfried van Beever in Antwerp). A news item in the Algemeen Handelsblad of March 25, 1926 [4] mentions that he passed away suddenly on the 25th at the age of 63, and that he was a well-known diamond trader and a popular member of the 'Diamant Beurs' (Diamond Bourse). Interestingly, the Diamant Beurs was housed in a building on the Weesperplein (the building still exists), and the Nieuwe Achtergracht is very close by. The addressee is Berhneim, Dreyfus & Co., which are listed as diamond merchants in a contemporary London telephone directory.

According to Hintzen, the intercepted mail was returned to the senders in January and February 1919. As shown in Figure 3, a faint note in pencil has been written on the back of the cover and reads 'terug 11 Jan 19' (back January 11, 1919), probably referring to the date when the cover made it back to van Beever.

Hintzen [2] writes that the postal administrations in The Hague, Rotterdam, and Amsterdam took the initiative to place hand stamps on part of the returned mail to explain the cause of the delay. Service order 114 of the Dutch postal service, issued on February 19, 1919, explains that mail returned after the war can "without further explanation be handed over to the senders." This order clearly came too late, as by then, a large part of the intercepted mail had already been returned to the senders, and explanatory hand stamps had been placed on those pieces.

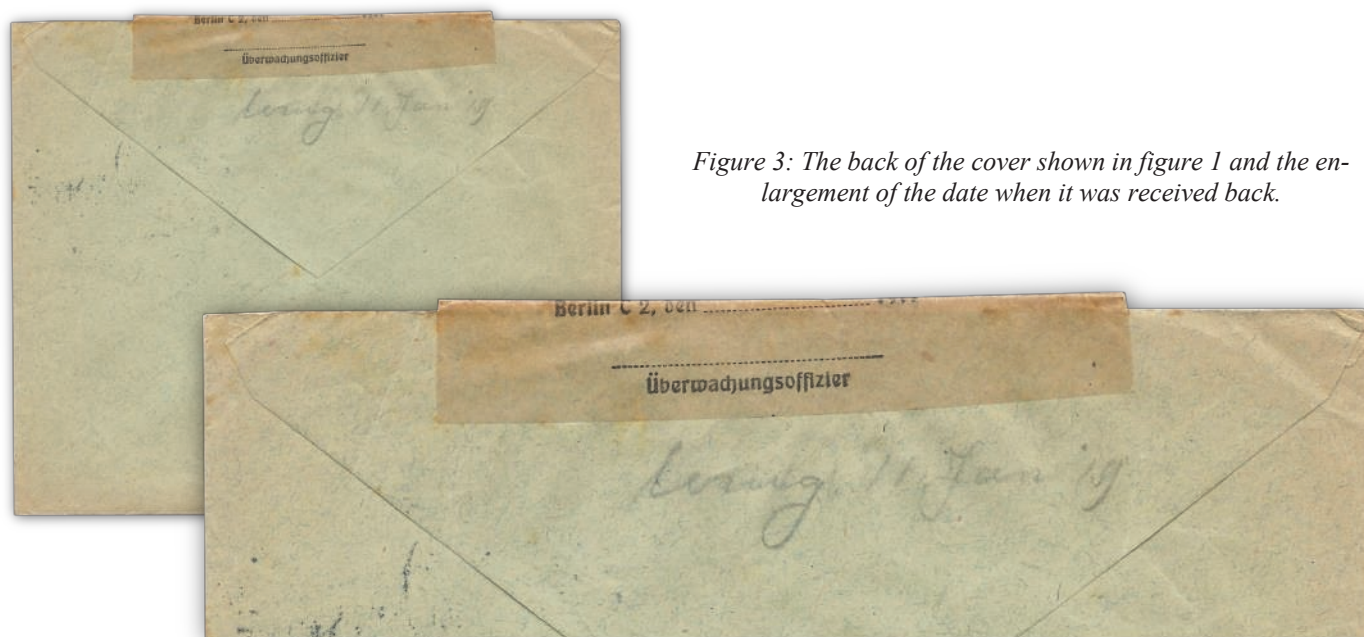


Figure 3: The back of the cover shown in figure 1 and the enlargement of the date when it was received back.

The explanatory hand stamps were produced at the initiative of local postal administrations, and many variations exist. The Rotterdam office used the professional-looking hand stamp with the text ‘Return to sender. / By the warring parties / intercepted and / now released’ (see Figure 4).

The Hague used a more provisional hand stamp (see Figure 5), with the text ‘By the Censor/Intercepted/As of now/ Released.’

The hand stamps used in Amsterdam were fabricated with what looks like material from an amateur print box. The ‘AANGEHOUDEN,/ DOOR DUITSCHLAND,/ 1916-17’ handstamp on my cover (Figure 1) is one example. The relatively poor quality impressions left by these hand stamps appear to be the norm [2].

Also, the haste and sloppiness

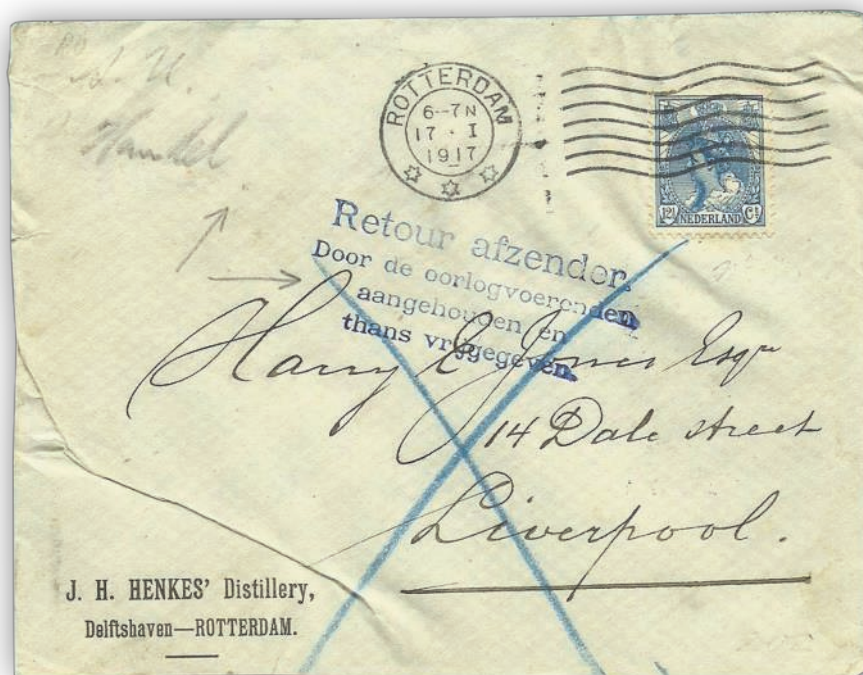


Figure 4: Cover mailed on January 17, 1917 from Rotterdam to Liverpool (offered on the online-auction website of Delcampe [5]).

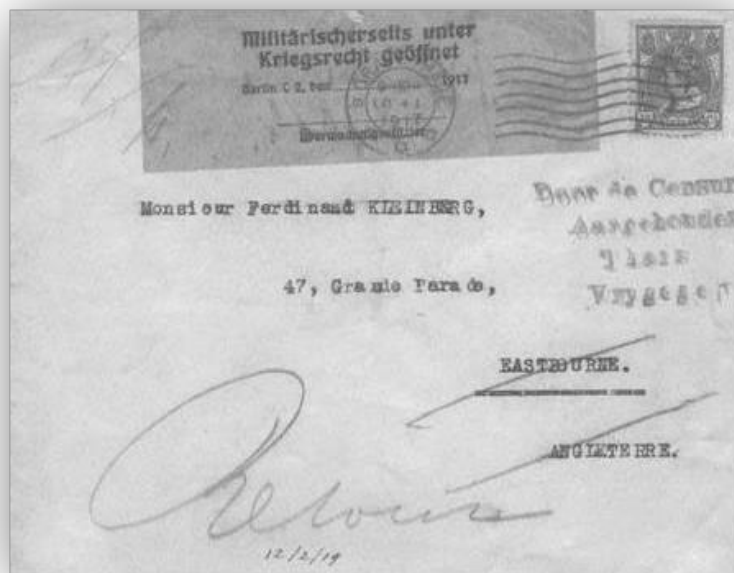


Figure 5: Cover mailed January 16, 1917 from The Hague (‘s Gravenhage) to Eastbourne, England. Pencil marking at bottom possibly indicates that it was returned to sender on February 12, 1919 (Figure 10 in [2]).

with which these hand stamps were produced created many varieties. Hintzen reports that the word DUITSCHLAND was misspelled as DUITSCHLAN, DUISCHLAND, or DIUTSCHLAND. An example of the latter misspelling is shown at the top of Figure 6. Other than the misspelling it is similar to the hand stamp shown in Figure 1 and concerns an envelope (offered at Corinphila auction 220) mailed on September 14, 1917 from the Dutch Indies (or India, not quite clear from the auction write-up), arriving in Groningen on January 5, 1919. Given the mailing date and the fact that it traveled to, rather than from the Netherlands, this cover did not travel on the Prins Hendrik and should not have received the “AANGEHOUDEN” hand stamp at all!



Figure 6: Varieties of the 'aangehouden door Duitschland' hand stamp.

Acknowledgements

I am thankful to Kees Adema for providing a copy of [2] and Hans Kremer for commenting on this article.

Sources

- [1] John Dehé & Fons Simons, "Een zaak van landsbelang," *Posthistorische Studie* 31, 2014.
- [2] Jan Hintzen, *Aangehouden door Duitschland*, *Notities* 32, 20-28, 2006 (Ned. Academie voor Filatelie).
- [3] SMZ: [Wikipedia.nl](http://www.delpher.nl/nl/kranten)
- [4] <http://www.delpher.nl/nl/kranten> (digitized Dutch newspapers)
- [5] <http://www.delcampe.net/>
- [6] http://www.deposthoorkrommenie.nl/attachments/File/Zaanse_stukjes_HB_2010-10.pdf

Hintzen does not mention varieties due to differences in the make-up of the hand stamp, but such cases exist. For example, the second example from the top in Figure 6 uses 1916/1917 rather than 1916-17, and the words 'aangehouden' and 'door' are on the same line (collection John Dehé [6]). This concerns an envelope mailed on November 10, 1916 from Koog aan de Zaan to London and travelling on the Koningin Regentes. The back of the cover has an arrival cancel from Krommenie, dated February 5, 1919.

The hand stamp shown second from the bottom in Figure 6 also combines 'aangehouden' and 'door' on one line, but also combines 'duitschland' and '1916/17' on one line, reserving the third line for 'terug afzender' (return to sender). Separate 'terug afzender' hand stamps were placed on the covers in conjunction with the 'aangehouden door' stamps, as can be seen in Figure 1, and the bottom example of Figure 6.

Covers with stamps similar to the ones shown in Figures 2 and 4 are listed in the catalogue of auction 701 of Cavendish Philatelic Auctions. The descriptions accompanying the lots make reference to 'types' (there seem to be at least six) but I have not been able to find a formal reference nor a complete listing of the varieties and types of hand stamps that may exist.

The Netherlands East Indies 1939 - 1942, Part IV

Censorship in Medan

by Saburo Masuyama

Medan was developed as a distribution center of farm products such as cigarette, rubber, tea and coconut oil. It was the fourth largest city of the Netherlands Indies after Batavia (now Jakarta), Surabaya and Bandung. Its population was 80,000 with 30,000 Chinese who dealt in these products widely. There were also planters from many European countries. They became rich and led an affluent life style. The downtown area where the old airport is located is called Polonia, a name given by a Polish aristocrat who once owned a plantation there.



Medan post office in 1922 (top) and 2013 (right)



On May 2013, my friend, with whom I have been exchanging new stamps for over 30 years invited us to "the Lake Toba". He picked us up at Polonia Airport and drove us to the hotel stopping by the Medan post office which was built in 1911. It was exciting to drive on the same road as to where once the airmail of KLM was carried.

When we arrived at the post office, there was heavy rain. The road had become an instant river. I only wore shoes and socks, other people were wearing the appropriate sandals to match the climate. Because a new airport was completed, Polonia Airport was closed on June 25 2013. I hope the building of the Medan post office will be used forever.

1 “Militaire Censuur Medan” in violet and four kinds of “Geopend Militaire Censuur - Medan”



Fig. 66. Medan May 17, 1940 to Malang May 21 by domestic airmail (10 cent + 7½ cent). The first Medan censorship mark “Militaire Censuur Medan” in violet and 108mm length of resealing label “Geopend Militaire Censuur - Medan” were applied.



Fig. 67. Bandung May 17, 1940 to Medan by domestic airmail. This mark was also applied when a letter was not opened but passed for transmission.

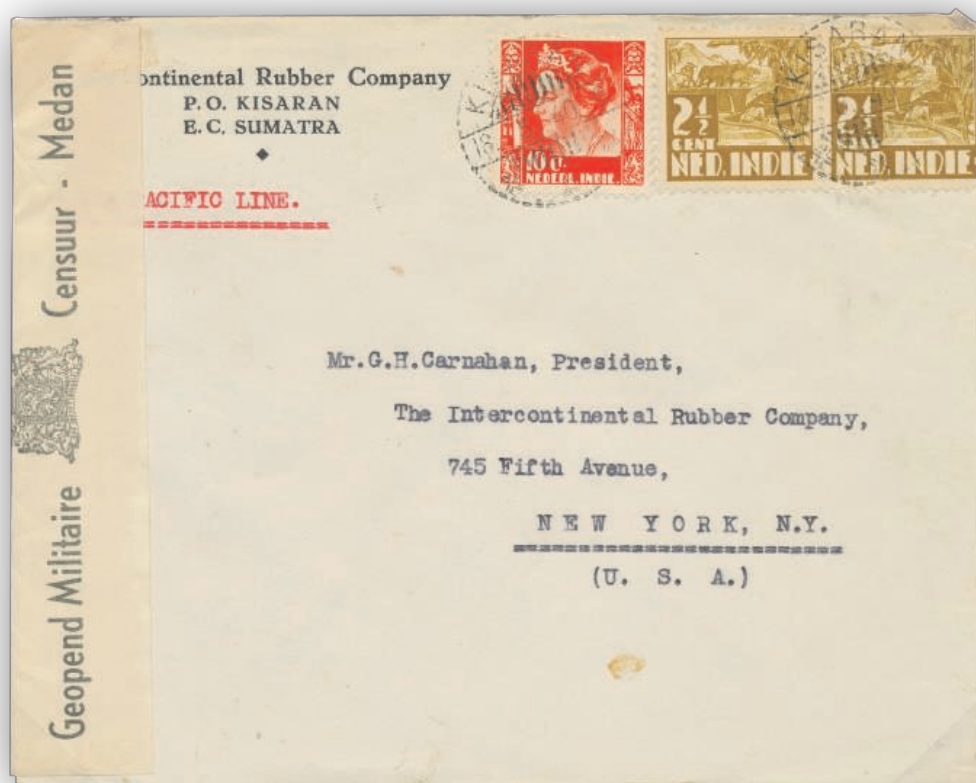


Fig. 70. Kisanan May 18, 1940 to New York. There are two types of fonts used for the "M" of Medan on the resealing label of 108mm. The other one is shown in figure 66.

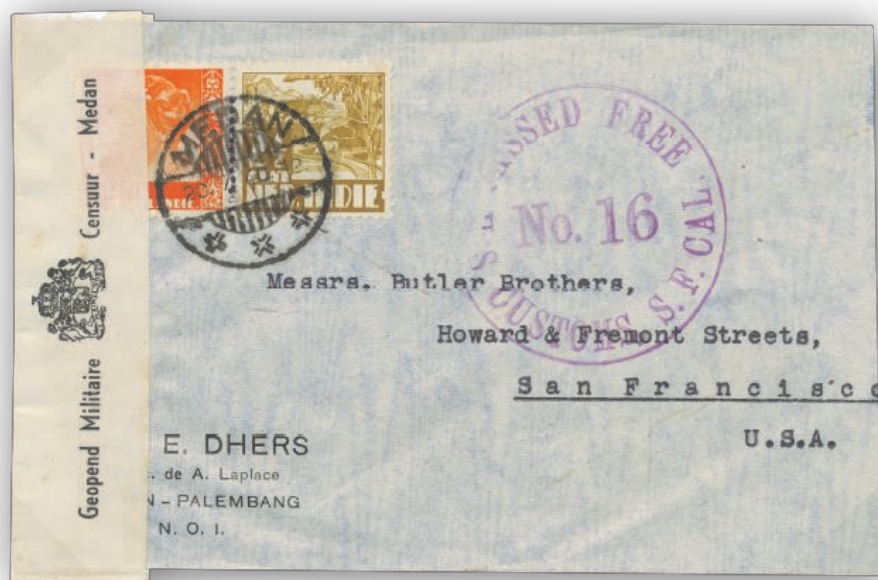


Fig. 71. Medan July 20, 1940 to San Francisco. A label of 71mm was used from July.

2 “Militaire Censuur Medan” in red

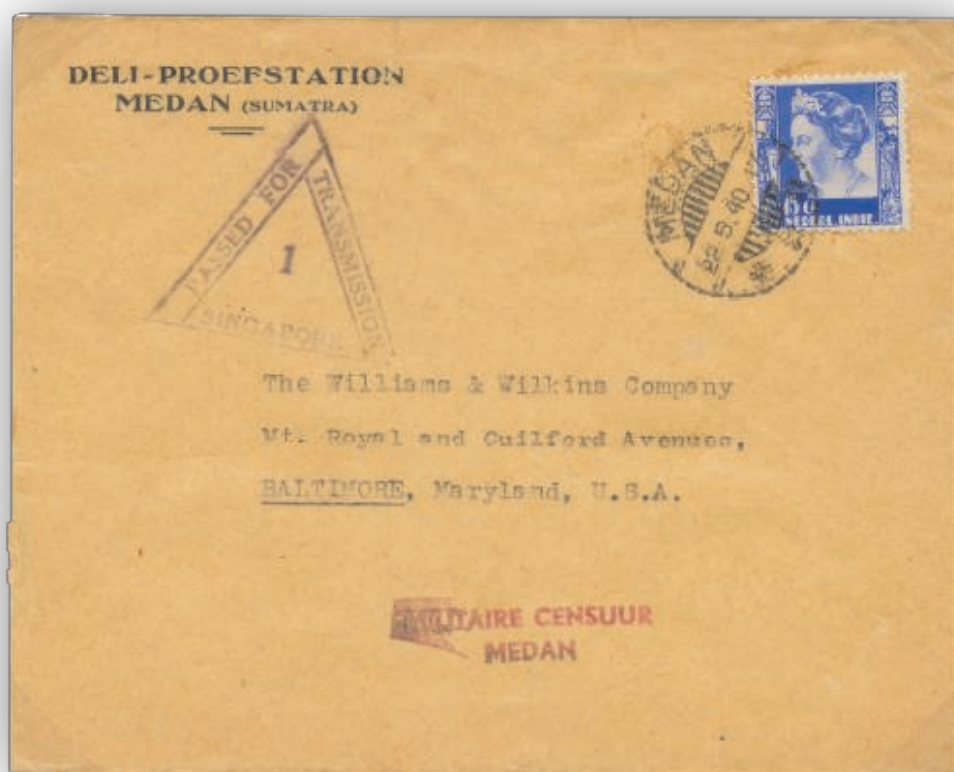


Fig. 72. Medan May 22, 1940 - Singapore - Maryland U.S.A. Red was used during a short period.



Fig. 73. Pangkajene May 23, 1940 - Hong Kong May 30 - New York.

3 Control numbers 1 through 4



Fig. 74. Pematang Siantar May 23, 1940 - Medan - Batavia - Siantar. Domestic letter 10cent.

Bulterman (page 371) says the purpose of these numbers is not clear, however 1, 2 and 3 were probably used in Medan. I suggest 1 through 4 were used as a control number by the censorship organization of the Medan military.

"1" and "2" by Medan General mail

"3" by Medan German camp mail

"4" by Branch Office, maybe Pematang Siantar.

This is the first report about number "4". Additional information is welcome.

These numbers were applied from May 23 to September 3, (Fig. 78)

A.C.K.= Algemeen Censuur Kantoor (General Censorship Office).

This mark and "MILITAIRE CENSUUR MEDAN" have the same color, so I think this mark was applied in Medan.

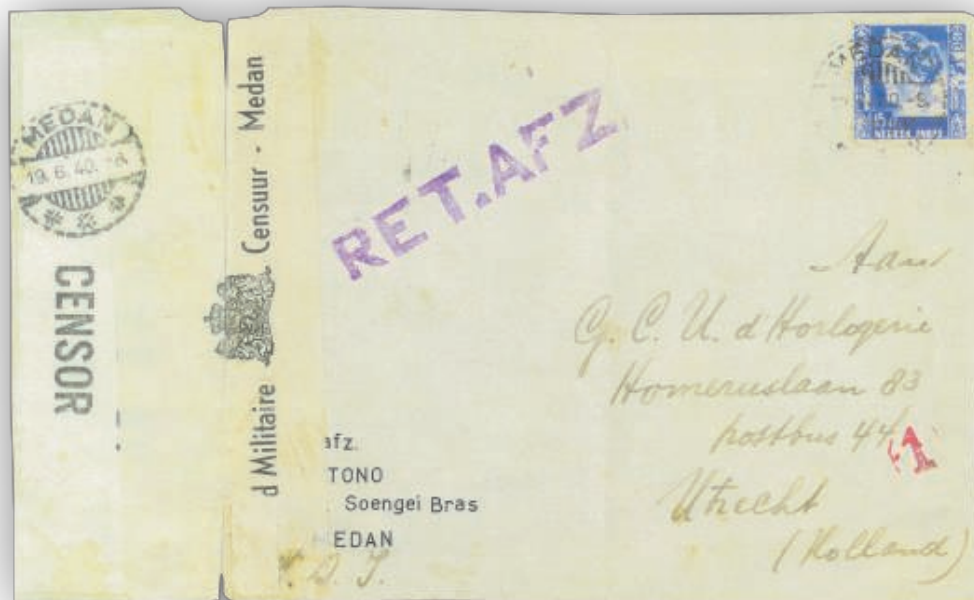


Fig. 75. Medan April 17, 1940. The U.K censored but it could not be delivered in Utrecht, returned to Medan, June 19. “1”, a resealing label “Geopend Militaire Censuur - Medan” and “RET.AFZ.” (“Retour Afzender”, return to sender) were applied.



Fig. 76. Medan July 3, 1940 airmail to the U.S.A. “1” and a 71mm resealing label were applied. This airmail letter was not opened in Batavia and Singapore.

Brieven van vader
gehad, maar, er is
nog niets bekend
over onze verhuizing
verder krijgen we
3 nieuwe leraren
erbij: Los, Visser (E.),
Visser (A.) en Elmenhorst
zijn overleeflaatsst.
Los is veilig wegge-
borgen in Makassar
Grootje zwiebert hier
wekt de hele dag rond
vergeet je niet aan
correspondentie
NAA M EN ADRES VAN DEN AFZENDER
NAMA DAN ALAMAT SIPENGIRIM
Nu dag. hart. gr.
A. Visser
Medan

BRIEFKAART
KARTOEPOS
10th October 1908
ADRES ALAMAT
Den Heer A. H. Brauer
1ste Depôt
Batavia
Bandjeng
2

13.
3 1/2
CENT
NED. INDIE

31



Fig. 79. Kabandjehe June 27, 1940 with “3” and “MILITAIRE CENSUR MEDAN” to Siantar.



Fig. 80. Pematang Siantar June 17, 1940 with “3” and “MILITAIRE CENSOR MEDAN”.
This censor mark was only applied in June 1940.

“4” with “2”



Fig. 81. Prapat June 28, 1940. Pematian Siantar “4”, Medan “2” and Batavia “CENSUUR GEPASSEERD 7” and brown “DOOR CENSUUR GEOPEND” were applied.

“4” with “3”



Fig. 82. Pematian Siantar June 26, 1940 with “4”, Medan “3” and Batavia “GECENSUUREERD 1”.

“2” in Violet



Fig. 83. Galang August 20, 1940 “2” and new “DEVIEZEN CENSUUR MEDAN 1” were applied.

The last censorship by the military



Fig. 84. Medan September 3, 1940 “2” in red and “MILITAIRE CENSUUR MEDAN” were applied.

4 Medan Currency institution

The Medan Currency institution began to use new censor marks “DEVIEZEN CENSUUR MEDAN” with “I” or “II”, however they did not prepare a new resealing label. “Geopend Militaire Censuur - Medan” labels were used until September 3, 1940.



Fig. 85. Medan August 7, 1940 with “DEVIEZEN CENSUUR MEDAN II” to New York. Much of the foreign mail was censored by the currency institution whether currency was enclosed or not. Censorship mark “MEDAN I” can be found in fig. 83.

5 “DOOR CENSUUR GEOPEND” 102mm.



Fig. 86. Medan September 4, 1940 with “DEVIEZEN CENSUUR MEDAN II” and new resealing label “DOOR CENSUUR GEOPEND” to New York.

New labels of 102 mm and 78 mm in length were used only in September, 1940.

A similar label was used in Surabaya (Fig. 45, 46 and 47, page 76 and 77 of Netherlands Philately 39-4) but this was dull paper and without a period mark.

6 “DOOR CENSUUR GEOPEND” 79mm.

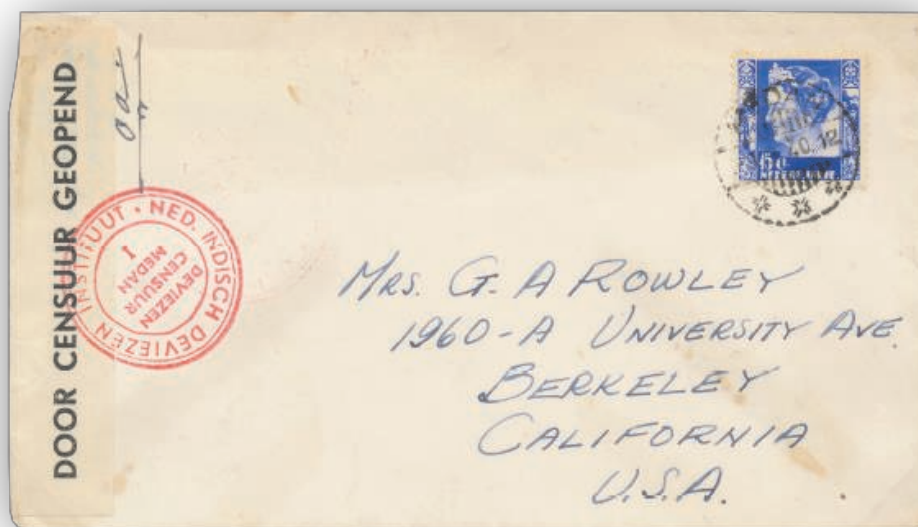


Fig. 87. Medan September 9, 1940 with “DEVIEZEN CENSUUR MEDAN 1” to Berkeley, California in the U.S.A.



Fig. 88. Medan September 7, 1940 with “DEVIEZEN CENSUUR MEDAN 1” to San Francisco.

7 Brown “CENSUUR BATAVIA” two lines, type Stripe or Flat



Fig. 89. Siboga October 15, 1940 - Medan - Singapore - California. Resealing label type Stripe.



Fig. 90. Medan November 9, 1940 to Massachusetts U.S.A. Resealing label type Flat. There are two distinct shades of paper for brown resealing labels.

8 Brown "DOOR CENSUUR GEOPEND" two lines



Fig. 91. Medan October 3, 1940 - Sydney - Pennsylvania U.S.A.



Fig. 92. New York September 26, 1940 - Hong Kong, October 4, 1940 - Penang - Medan. This airmail was not opened and inspected in Hong Kong, Penang and Medan.

The last word

by Alex Nuijten

Usually the representatives of a society, read president, editor etc. give their introductions, speeches etc. at the beginning of a book or magazine. Well as you probably noticed over the years I (your current) editor do things a bit different. So also in this issue, I leave you as reader/member with some material to think about after what I found an enjoyable magazine.

For the last 40 years the ASNP editors have been an important part of your society. Some would say the backbone, but this is not correct!..... It are the members who have the courage to write about their interests and share this with the rest of the society, regardless whether it is a thematic, postal historic or traditional philatelic subject. As long it is Netherlands and/or (former) colonies related it is fine with the editor.

The ASNP caters to all type of collectors, from the basic collector to the diehard philatelist. In this episode of the magazine this becomes very clear. I received two articles by two different authors who have never written before for Netherlands Philately and are proving that even if you are a basic collector you can write an article for your magazine. One was even hand written!!! Kudo's to John Prince for that. Further I received interesting articles by our well known authors who are contributing to a diversity of levels in development within philately.

As editor I'm happy to receive such a diversity of articles touching different topics. It is a reflection of how the society caters to its members.

Ever thought of writing for your magazine? Well start that computer or grab a pen and paper as John Prince did. Age or computer illiteracy is not an excuse anymore, nor is the excuse "I'm a basic collector".

Now another aspect to think about for you as members. **Meet each other.** Just what Robert Finder and I do here in Down Under and some of our members do in California you can do too in your country or state. The magazine provides room for members who want to meet other "local" collectors.

All it takes is someone to send out a word and others to reply to. Or better why don't you think about meeting a group of members during the world stamp exhibiton New York 2016; the ASNP celebrates its 40th anniversary there! Besides meeting (new) people you might see some inspiring collections or new collecting areas.

Next time you are in the area of Adelaide, give me a message for meeting up and browse through some of my stamps!

Remember you as collector hold the power to attract new collectors, and share the passion for Netherlands and (former) Colonies philately!

World Stamp Show



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