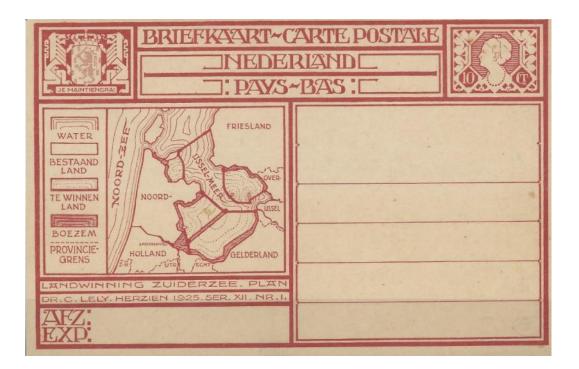
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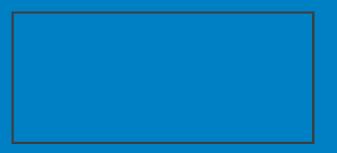
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Netherlands Philately

Magazine of the American Society for Netherlands Philately

Volume 42/3





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Editor's Message

January, 2018

Happy New Year. May 2018 bring you good health.

My wife and I have returned from our trip to the Far East. While in Singapore, we met with Tay Peng Hian, our only ASNP member overthere. He had contacted me after receiving issue 42/2 while attending Brasilia 2017 (he is the President of FIP) in Brazil. It turned out that he would be back in Singapore before I would leave, and he invited us

(including our nephew, his wife and their three young children) to meet at the Singapore Country Club. The beer, satay, and sweets for the kids tasted really good.

On our trip, we also visited the Philatelic Museum in Chiang Mai (Thailand), but it displayed mostly



(antique) communication equipment and virtually no stamps.

Ben

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Advice to Authors

Please submit your text in MS Word, and indicate where each illustration belongs. Submit illustrations as full color scans (at 600 dpi).Contact the Magazine Editor in case of questions.

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Website: <u>www.asnp1975.com</u>

First Airmail Flight of the 'Caraibische Vliegdienst Compagnie,' August 1934

by Hans Kremer

In 1934, commercial aviation was introduced in Aruba by Manuel Viana of Viana's Auto Supply Co. The opening of this service was mentioned in the Amigoe di Curaçao newspaper of June 16, 1934:

"Air Service Curaçao-Aruba. The Caraibische Vliegdienst Compagnie (CVC) (Caribbean Airline Company) has entered into an agreement to maintain a scheduled air connection between Curaçao and Aruba. Every Monday and Thursday there will be round trip flights. The oneway price is 25 ½ fl., both ways will be 50 fl. In addition to this regular scheduled route there will also be an opportunity for excursions from one to the other island on other days. With at least 5 or 6 passengers, the plane will also make the trip on Saturday and maybe on the remaining days of the week. Travelers pay 30 guilders each way and are entitled to carry 30 lbs. of luggage. The pound is calculated to be 480 grams.

From Curaçao to Aruba, the journey will take exactly half an hour. The opposite direction will take one hour due to the head wind. Although the aircraft is amphibious, it will preferably land on Hato (Curaçao) airport because salt water has a very adverse effect on the machine.

We hope that an agreement will soon be made to transport the mail.

We congratulate the Caribbean Airline Company, and are pleased to see that it is not lacking passengers."

The wish of the newspaper that the CVC would be allowed to transport mail did not come through until later that year (August 25, 1934) when the first airmail flight from Curaçao to Aruba took place. The first Aruba to Curaçao return airmail flight took place three days later, on August 28, 1934 (Figure 1).

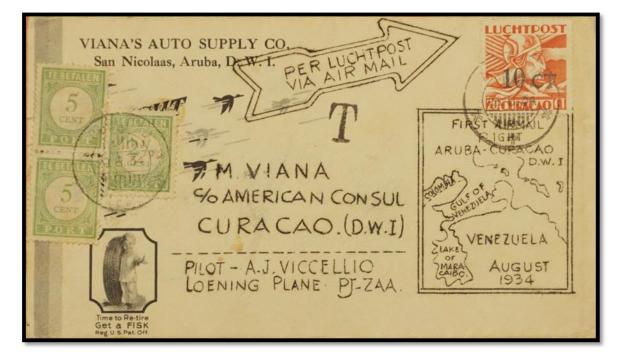


Figure 1: August 28, 1934 Aruba to Curaçao by air.

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A six-passenger single-engine Loening C2H amphibious airplane carried passengers and mail between Aruba and Curaçao with pilot A.J. Viccellio at the controls. Manuel Viana bought the Loening C2H airplane (Fig. 2) from the Standard Oil Co of Venezuela. In December 1933 the aircraft was shipped to Aruba and handed over to Lago

and sent to Mr. Viana of the Caribbean Flying Service. In 1934 the aircraft was registered with registration number PJ-ZAA. Operations ceased December 1934 after the start of operations of the KLM West-Indisch Bedrijf. Manuel Viana was compensated by KLM to stop his scheduled service.

Looking closer at the cover in Figure 1, you might have noticed the three postage due stamps totaling $12 \frac{1}{2}$ cent and a 10 cent overprinted airmail stamp. The 10 cent paid for the airmail surcharge for letters on the



Figure 2: Loening C2H amphibious airplane

Curaçao-Aruba route. Since in August 1934 no 10 cent airmail stamps were available the existing 20 cent airmail stamp was overprinted in black "10 CT" by the Curaçaosche Courant on half sheets of 50 stamps. They were issued on August 25, 1934 to coincide with the first Curaçao to Aruba airmail flight. The stamps lived a short life since already on December 1, 1934 they were replaced by new 10 cent airmail stamps. The 10 cent overprinted stamps were demonetized as of that date.

The regular letter rate was 6 cent, but since it was not paid for in this case, postage due of 12 cent (twice the short amount) had to be paid. There was no 12 cent postage due stamp, so one had to pay 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cent postage due stamp, since no postage due stamps of any combination would add up to 12 cent. In our case two 5 cent and one 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cent postage due stamps were applied.

Notes

A: Two C-2Hs were also used by the firm Air Ferries in the 1930s before the Oakland Bay Bridge was completed to transport passengers between Oakland and San Francisco, cutting a normal forty-minute ferry boat ride to just six minutes.

B: The Dutch airmail catalog (2012) on page 444 shows a similar cover but with a 6 cent regular stamp and the 10 cent airmail surcharge stamp. No postage due in that case.

References

Via delpher.nl: *Amigoe di Curaçao*, June 16, 1934 Julsen, Frank W. and Benders, A.M., *A postal history of Curaçao*, van Dieten 1976 Boesman, J., *Luchtpostcatalogus van Nederland en Overzeese Rijksdelen*, Davo, 1970 *Luchtpostcatalogus van Nederland en Overzeese Rijksdelen*, Ned. Vereniging van Aero-Philatelisten, 2012

From Baltimore to Amsterdam 1858

by Erling Berger

Here we trace the journey of the cover shown in Figure 1, mailed from Baltimore (Maryland, USA) on November 23, 1858 to Amsterdam via Ostende.



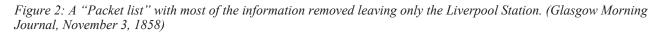
Figure 1: Baltimore 23 November 1858 to Amsterdam, marked "per Steamer Asia from New York" (Delcampe Internet Auction).

A handwritten note at the top of the cover instructs that the letter must travel "per Steamer Asia from New York," where it arrived on Nov. 24 according to the circular cancel on the right of the cover. Cancels on the back indicate that it arrived in London on December 6, and in Amsterdam on December 8, 1858.

The British General Post Office issued a daily list of arriving and departing packets. The newspapers copied them under the headlines of "Packet List" or "Sea-Borne Mails." The Packet Stations were Southampton, Devonport, Plymouth and Liverpool. Figure 2 shows the Packet List published in the Glasgow Morning Journal of November 3, 1858. I have removed most of the information, leaving only the Liverpool Station, to show that the last packet that sailed was the Asia, leaving October 30th.

PACKET LIST.

SINGLĘ RATE,	DESTINATION.	MAILS DESPATCHED FROM LONDON.	LAST PACKET SAILED.	NEXT PACKET DUE.
	SOUTHAMPTON STATION. DEVONPORT STATION.			
{	LIVERPOOL STATION. British North America and the United States	Evening of every Friday.	Asia, Oct. 30.	Next Mail due, Nov. 11



By the way, Dover was not mentioned in such lists, even though the town was hosting two routes:

- to Calais with the French mails
- to Ostend with the Belgian mails, including the Netherlands mails.

These routes were so regular with at least one daily departure that the Post-office obviously did not find it necessary to mention them.

The Asia was owned by the Cunard Line. This company informed the public about the shipping schedules through advertisements. Figure 3 shows the notice placed in the Glasgow Morning Journal of 19 November 1858. It reports that the Asia should leave New York on November 24 and would sail again from Liverpool on December 11, 1858.



Figure 3: Advertisement from the Cunard Line (Glasgow Morning Journal 19 November 1858).

DESTINATION.	Mails dispatched from London.	Next Packot due.
Gibraltar, Malta, Egypt, Ceylon,) India, &c	(By Day Mail.) 7th, 17th, and 27th of every month, 4th and 20th of every month. 4th of every month.	Nov. 20 Doc. 4 Dec. 4
(except Honduras), Foreign Co- lonics, &c. in the West Indies (except Havannah), California, Venezaela, New Granada, Chili, and Pera, Grey Town (St. Juan de Nicarague)	2nd and 17th of every month.	Dec. 1
Mexico and Havannah	2nd of every month	Dec. I
Honduras and Nassau	17th of every month	Dec. 16
Lisbon, Madeiva, Brazil, Buenos ? Ayres, and Falkland Isles	Ath of every month	Dec. 5
PLYMOUTH STATION. Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Mau- ritius, Ceylon, India, Ascuasion, and Cape de Verde	Evening of the 5th of every month	Dec. 9
Madeira, Tenerifie, and West Coast 7 of Africa	Evening-of the 23rd of every month	Dec. 1
LIVENFOOD STATION. British North America and United 3 States	Every alternate Friday Evening	Dec. (

The Sea-Borne Mails list shown in Figure 4 indicates that the next packet from North America was expected to arrive in Liverpool on 6 December 1858. However, the London Daily News of Monday 6 December 1858 reported that the Asia had docked in Liverpool on the afternoon of Sunday 5 December (Figure 5).

The time needed to reach London was four hours. On Sunday the postal service was closed in London. The present letter was marked in London on Monday 6 December. According to the train schedule shown in Figure 6, the train to Dover left London Bridge at 8:30 pm arriving in Dover at 11:00 pm.

Figure 4: Total list of Sea-Borne Mails (Hampshire Telegraph Saturday 4 December 1858).



Figure 5: Report that the Asia landed in Liverpool on the afternoon of Sunday 5 December (London Daily News Monday 6 December 1858).

London & Dover South-Eastern Railway. TIME TABLE FOR DECEMBER, 1858.

DOWN TRAINS.	1, 2, & Parl.	1 & 2 Exp.	1, 2, 3 Cl.	1 & 2 Fast.	1 & 2 M Ex.	1 & 2 Cl,	1 Cl. Exp.	1 & 2 Cl.	1 Cl. M Ex.	
	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	-
LONDON Bridge		8 30	9 30	11 30	1 30	1 35	4 30	5 30	8 30	
Reigate Junction	7 20	9 4	10 20	12 12	2 4	2 22	5 4	6 22	9 4	
Funbridge	8 19	9 35	11 19	12 53	2 35	3 19	5 40	7 19	9 35	
Tunbridge Wells ar.	8 49	9 50	11 35	1 11	2 55		6 0	7 48	9 50	
Paddock Wood Junction ar.	8 36		11 36	1 8		3 36		7 34		
Maidstone ar.	9 10	1	12 10	2 0		4 10		8 15		••
Staplehurst	8 57		11 56	1 23			6 5	7 55	9 58	•••
Headcorn	0 4		12 4					8 4		•••
Ashford Junction ar.	9 29	10 18	12 28	1 51	3 21		6 29	8 30	10 20	••
Hastings ar.	11 30	11 30	2 0				7 40			
Canterbury ar.	10 50	10 59		2 30	4 5		7 3	9 11		•••
Deal ar.	19 10	12 10		3 30			7 55	10 15		••
Ramsgate ar.		11 54		3 20			7 42	10 5		•••
Margato ar.	10 15	12 15	••	3 40			8 0	10 25	••	••
Smarth	9 45		12 45	-		••		8 45		• •
Smeeth Westenhanger and Hythe	0 40		12 52	2 12			••	8 55		••
Westenninger and Hythe	9 03	10 15	12 02		3 45		elie		10 10	• •
Folkestone Junction Station	10 8	10 45	1 20	2 26	0 90		6 46		10 45	
DOVER	10 30	11 0	1 30	Z 40	1 0		7 15	9 30	11 0	

Figure 6: Time table for the train from London to Dover. The mail train (M) was an express train (Ex) leaving London Bridge 8:30 pm, arriving in Dover 11:00 pm carrying only passengers with 1st Class tickets. (Dover Express Saturday 4 December 1858).

Information about the route from the Dover Packet Station to Ostend is shown in Figure 7. The mail packet to

Ostend was leaving at 11:00 pm at the very moment when the mail train had reached Dover. Thus the present letter arrived in Ostend on Tuesday the 7th.

The mail bag for the Netherlands was carried by train to Antwerp and transferred to the Travelling Post Office of EXP: Moerdijk. In Moerdijk the letter was taken aboard a steamer to Rotterdam from where the letter was carried to Amsterdam either by train or by horse-back arriving Wednesday the 8th of December.

The postage from New York City was paid in Amsterdam by 80 cent of which 60 cent or 1/-Shilling was reimbursed to Britain.

It took another 19 years to establish the railway from Antwerp to Amsterdam.

GOVERNMENT MAIL PACKETS BETWEEN DOVER, CALAIS, AND OSTEND.

From Dover to Calais every Night, at 11 p.m.; and by French Packets every Afternoon, (except Sunday,) at 4 p.m. From Calais to Dover every Morning, at 2 30 a.m.; and by French Packets, every Night, at 10 40 p.m.

From Dover to Ostend every Night, (except Sunday,) at 11 p.m.; and from Ostend to Dover every Night, (except Saturday,) at 6 30 p.m.

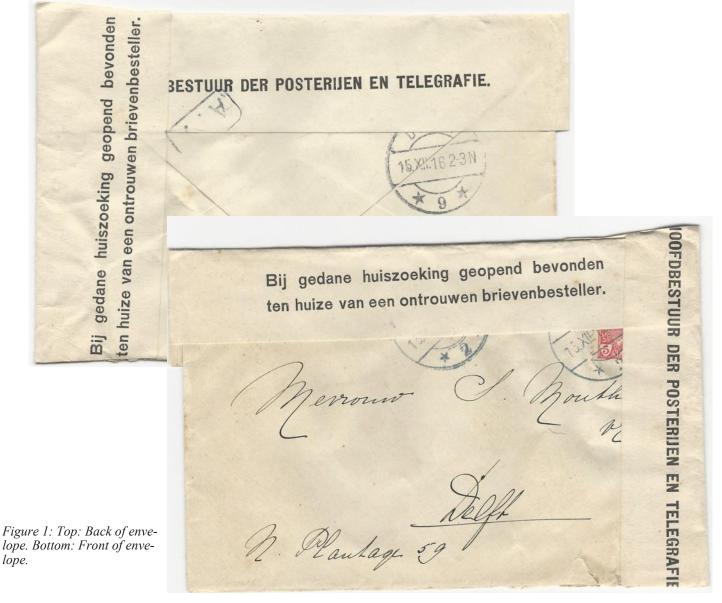
One of the South-Eastern Company's Steam Packets leaves Dover for Calais every Morning at 11, returning in the Afternoon at 4.

Figure 7: The routes from the Dover Packet Station to Ostend and Calais. The mail packet to Ostend left at 11:00 pm at the very moment when the mail train had reached Dover. (Dover Express 4 December 1858).

An Unreliable Mail Deliverer

by Ben H. Jansen

I was the successful bidder on the envelope, offered at Corinphila Auction 229 in September 2017, and shown in Figure 1. It was mailed in Delft on December 15, 1916 to a local address and has been closed with two white labels from the "Hoofdbestuur der Posterijen en Telegrafie" (Central Management of the Post and Telegraph) with the text "Bij gedane huiszoeking geopened bevonden ten huize van een ontrouwen brievenbesteller." (Found opened during a search at the home of an unfaithful mail deliverer). The 5 ct Queen Wilhelmina with Fur Collar was used for postage.



It turns out that the cover has been reported on by Huber van Werkhoven (HvW) in the May 2014 issue of 'Hertogpost,' the monthly journal of the Philatelic Society of Den Bosch. In that article, he wrote that he had seen the cover during the philatelic show in Wijk aan Zee on April 12 and 13 in the exhibit "Netherlands 5 c Fur Collar 1899-1935" of Harry Trip (HT).

HvW also wrote that HT had tried to get more information about the label at the 'Postmuseum' (now 'Comm') in 1992. Transcripts of the responses from Mr. Lagerwey, of the Department of Postal History at the Postmuseum, were enclosed with the auction lot and are shown in Figure 2. Figure 2: Transcripts of the letters from Mr. Lagerwey of the Post Museum.

Brief d.d.12 mei 1992 van het postmuseum De Heer R.Lagerwey afd. Posthistorie.

Geachte Heer,

Het door U genoemde PTT-etiket met de tekst over de "ontrouwen brievenbesteller" is bij het PTT museum niet bekend. Het is ook curieus dat voor zo'n niet dagelijks voorkomend geval een speciaal etiket is aangemaakt, terwijl er stroken met het opschrift " Open/beschadigd aangetroffen" voorhanden zijn. Gezien het taalgebruik is het ook geen recent exemplaar. Het is jammer dat U geen fotokopie van de brief hebt meegezonden, zodat voor mij datering en vormgeving een houvast geweest waren. Een officieel PTT-etiket heeft altijd een formulier nummer.

In dit geval een P nummer omdat het om postale zaken gaat.

Het blijft echter mogelijk, dat plaatselijk, een directeur van een postkantoor bij een dergelijk voorval als het om een grote hoeveelheid poststukken gaat -, deze stroken/etiketten heeft laten drukken, speciaal voor deze gelegenheid. Maar daardoor is het nog geen officieel PTT etiket. Mocht U dieper op deze zaak willen ingaan dan heb ik echt een fotokopie van het desbetreffende poststuk nodig.

2e brief van de Heer Lagerwey. d.d. 1 juli 1992.

In verband met mijn vakantie ben ik nu pas aan het beantwoorden van Uw brief toegekomen. Zoals ik in mijn vorige brief al vermeld heb - en nu met zekerheid na het zien van Uw fotokopie - gaat het hier om een niet officieel Post-etiket, gezien het ontbreken van een formuliernummer. De desbetreffende strook is speciaal aangemaakt in verband met de nalatigheid van een besteller. Het ging klaarblijkelijk om een groot aantal poststukken, die blijkbaar door een besteller werden bewaard.

Daarom zijn deze stroken in oplaag gedrukt en in deze specifieke zaak eenmalig gebruikt.

In a letter of May 12, 1992, Mr. Lagerwey writes that the label is not known to the museum, and that "... An official PTT label always has a number. In this case a P number because it deals with postal affairs. It remains a pos-

Ontrouwe brievenbesteller. Een brievenbesteller is Donderdagavond op het postkantoor te Delft betrapt op het stelen van brieven. Hij oekende in den laatsten tijd ongeveer 66 brieven, waaronder enkele met geldswaarde, zich te hebben toegeeigend. Bij zijn aahhouding had hij nog een partijtje postzegels en enkele uit beieven afkomstige voorwerpen in zijn bezit.

-0-

.

Nader wordt gemeldt:

Bij huiszoeking zijn in de woning var den brievenbesteller St. angeveer 3 a 4 duizend brieven gevonden, waaronder verscheidene met chèques, wissels, outanties, assignaties enz., als mede enkele nog niet geinde postwissels en postbewijzen.

Figure 3: Utrechts Nieuwsblad, Jan. 6, 1917 reporting on a mail carrier who was found to have stolen mail. sibility, that locally, a post office director in a case like this, when it concerns large quantities of mail, has strips/labels printed."

In a second letter, after having received a photocopy of the cover, Mr. Lagerwey writes on July 1, 1992 that "... it does not concern an official post label, given the missing form number. The label in question has been produced especially because of negligence by a deliverer. Apparently a large quantity of mail was involved ..."

HvW found a report in the Utrechts Nieuwsblad of January 6, 1917 (Figure 3), indicating that the affair was more than just 'negligence.' In fact, around 3,000 to 4,000 letters were found in the home of mail deliverer "St.", including several not yet cashed money orders, that he had stolen from the post office.

While HvW was not able to find more information, my search on <u>www.delpher.nl</u> uncovered additional details. The Algemeen Handelsblad of March 6, 1917 contained a report on the court hearing held on March 5, identifying the deliverer "St." as J.G. Steenwijk (Figure 3). Also, the number of letters stolen appears to be between 4,000 and 5,000. This report also described how J.G.S. (as identified in other newspaper accounts and referred to as a "29 year old family man") handled the stolen mail. He did not destroy the mail but stored the stolen letters in the attic. He prevented his wife from going there by telling her that there were many mice in the attic (she had a horrible fear of them). J.G.S. confessed that he started stealing letters as early as December 1915. The letters were always taken from other carriers. J.G.S. estimated to have taken about 80 guilders from these letters. As reason for the crime he told the court that he was married to a divorced woman with two children and because of his low salary there was often a shortage of money. The prosecution demanded a two-year jail time.

Diefstal bij de posterijen te Delft.

Gisteren had zich voor de rechtbank te 's-Gravenhage te verantwoorden de Delftsche brievenbesteller J. G. Steenwijk, vader van een gezin, ter zake zich te hebben schuldig gemaakt aan diefstal van brieven in zijn kwaliteit van postbeambte, tweemaal gepleegd. In werkelijkheid heeft bekl. een 4000- à

5000-tal brieven ontwreemd, uit sommige waarvan hij zich de daarin gesloten geldswaarden toeëigende.

De man legde een volledige bekentenis af en bekende sedert December 1915 met tusschenpoozen zich aan de diefstallen te hebben schuldig gemaakt. Hij nam nimmer brieven tot zich uit zijn eigen bestelling, maar steeds uit andere bestellingen, die hij dan tusschen de zijne sorteerde en ze, buiten gekomen, bij zich stak. Thuis gekomen, werden ze openge-maakt en het geld er uitgehaald. De brieven werden bij hem thuis op den zolder op een hoop geworpen, en om zijn vrouw er buiten te houden, zorgde hij, dat deze niet boven kwam.

Hij maakte haar bang, door te zeggen, dat er veel muizen op zolder waren, waar zij gruwelijk hang voor was. In 't geheel vermoedde hij, dat hij een 80 gulden uit deze verschillende brieven had genomen.

Hoe hij er toe gekomen was? Hij was gehuwd met een gescheiden vrouw, die twee kinderen tot haar last had. Mede door de tijdsomstandigheden en door het niet groote sala-ris was de huiselijke toestand niet rooskleurig en was er dikwijls geldgebrek,

De directeur van het postkantoor als getuige gehoord deelde mede, dat er zeer veel reclames binnenkwamen over vermissingen, zonder dat het gelukte den dader te ontdekken.

Bekl. kwam heel dikwijls te laat en werd daarvoor meermalen geschorst. Overigens deed hij zijn werk naar behooren.

Het O. M. de schuld van bekl. bewezen achtende, vorderde veroordeeling tot twee jaren gevangenisstraf.

Mr. Oppenheimer deed als verdediger nog een goed woord voor bekl. Uitspraak 12 dezer.

Figure 3: Algemeen Handelsblad of March 6, 1917 reporting on the court hearings in The Hague.

Verduistering van brieven.

's-GRAVENHAGE, 12 Maart. De rechtbank alhier veroordeelde:

J. G. S., brievenbesteller te Delft, wegens diefstal en verduistering van brieven, ter vijl hij in dienst was bij de posterijen, tot 1 jaar en 6 maanden gevangenisstraf; de eisch was 2 jaren.

Figure 4: Verdict as reported in the Telegraaf, March 13, 1917.

Acknowledgment:

I thank Willem Pasterkamp for pointing me to the article by Huub van Werkhoven.

Stamp Designer Ootje Oxenaar Passes Away

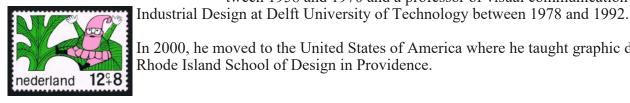
The graphic designer Robert Deodaat Emile (Ootje) Oxenaar (The Hague, 1929) passed away on June 13, 2017 in Manomet, near Boston (USA). He is well-known for his design of Dutch banknotes (e.g., the 50 guilders 'sunflower', the 100 guilder 'snipe', and the 250 guilders 'lighthouse').





In 1963 he designed his first series of stamps for the PTT (the 'independence' series), followed by the Children's stamps of 1964 and 1968, and the Summer Welfare stamps of 1970. From 1970 to 1976 he served the PTT as Deputy Head of the Department of Aesthetic Design, and then until 1994 as Head of this Department. All in all, he designed 33 stamps.

Oxenaar was a lecturer at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in The Hague between 1958 and 1970 and a professor of visual communication at the Faculty of



In 2000, he moved to the United States of America where he taught graphic design at the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence.

The Telegraaf of March 13 reported that the final verdict was issued on March 12, and that the court imposed a one year and six months jail term (Figure 4).

Given the quantity of the stolen mail, it is not surprising that the decision was made to produce a specially-designed label to close the envelopes. In all likelihood, the labels were produced at the initiative of the Delft post office.







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PREVIEW





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The Netherlands and Water

by Ben H. Jansen

Approximately 26% of the Netherlands is below sea level. The 'Normaal Amsterdams Peil' (NAP) or Amsterdam Ordnance Datum is the baseline for altitude measurements in the Netherlands (see Figure 1). Historically,



Figure 1: 'Normaal Amsetrdams Peil' marker.

the zero level of NAP was the average water level at summer high tide (when the water level reaches its maximum, not counting storms) in the IJ just north of the center of Amsterdam when it was still connected to the open sea. This level was established between September 1683 and September 1684 by Johannes Hudde, Mayor of Amsterdam, when the sea dike was expanded after a flood in Amsterdam in 1675. This level was determined to be 'negen voet en vyf duym' (nine [Amsterdam] feet and five inch) or 2.67 m below the height of the 'Zee Dijk' (Sea Dike). This was initially referred to as 'Amsterdams Peil'. In

1860, the AP was carried over to other areas in the Netherlands to replace locally-used levels. In this operation, an error was introduced which was corrected (normalized) between 1885 and 1894, resulting in the Normaal Amsterdams Peil. Currently it is physically realized by a brass benchmark

on a 22-meter pile below the Dam square in Amsterdam (Figure 2). By the way, the lowest spot in the The Netherlands can be found in the Zuidplaspolder (north east of Nieuwerkerk aan de IJssel) at 6.76 m below NAP.

The Netherlands was settled permanently between 6000-4000 BC, but primarily at the higher



altitudes. It is not until between 500-400 BC that the flooding prone area of Friesland (Figure 3) became occupied. The population protected its cattle and possessions by building earthen mounds, 'terpen', as the Romans discovered when they arrived around 50 BC. To protect their valuable fields for growing crops and raising cattle, the Friesians connected the terpen by earthen walls to keep the water out. These walls evolved into dikes (Figure 4) and by 1000 AC Friesland had been enclosed completely by dikes and the terpen were abandoned. Many of the terpen were later dismantled and the dirt used as fertilizer.

Figure 3: Historical map of Friesland.

As early as 1200 AC, the Dutch started reclaiming land from the sea. Areas outside the dike that had silted up were surrounded by dikes. Water remaining in the enclosed area was sluiced out at low tide through a door, hinged at the top, in the dike. When high tide returned, the rising water pushed the door shut, keeping land inside the dike dry, and creating a 'polder.' Later, windmills were used to pump the water out.





Figure 4: Dike.

This process really took off in the 1600's when the first polder in the world was created from a lake by draining the water using wind mills (Figure 5). The Beemster lake



(Figure 6) was surrounded with two sets of canals and dikes. Windmills were used to pump the water in two stages out of the lake, resulting in the Beemster polder.

Figure 5: Windmill used to pump water.

The reclamation of the Beemster was started in 1607 with the Dutch architect, mill builder and hydraulic engineer Jan Lee-

ghwater ('leeg' = empty, 'water' = water) in charge of the milling.



Figure 6: Map of Beemster polder and portrait of Jan Leeghwater.

He was born as Jan Adriaanszoon (1575, De Rijp, Netherlands – 1650) and only later did he adopt the name Leeghwater. A portrait of him is visible on the selvage of the Amphilex 2002 sheet (Figure 6). Between 1607 and 1635, the polders Purmer, Schermer and Heerhugowaard were also created under his supervision.

Leeghwater is credited with the invention of the eight-sided windmill which could always be pivoted head-on to the wind. An often visited tourist site, Kinderdijk, shows a series of such mills (Figure 7).



Figure 8: Steamdriven pumping station. Since the late 16th century, large polder areas are preserved through elaborate drainage systems that include dikes, canals and pumping stations (Figure 8).

Figure 7: Eight-sided windmill at Kinderdijk.



Nearly 17% of the Netherland's land area is reclaimed from the sea and from lakes. Much of

the reclaimed land used to be the bottom of the Zuider Zee (Southern Sea) and was created as a result of the Zuider Zee works, conceived by engineer and statesman Lely. The postcard shown in Figure 9 presents one version of the 'Lely plan.'

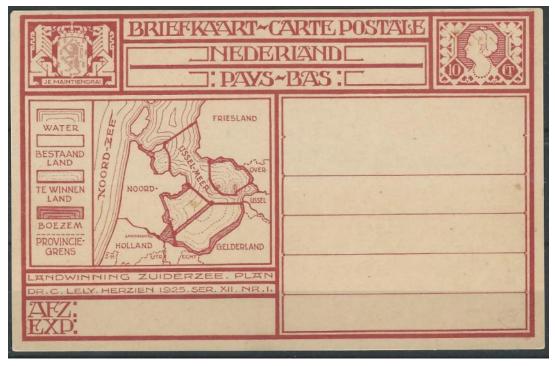


Figure 9: The 'Lely Plan' as conceived in 1925,

The Zuider Zee works were designed to stop the flooding caused by storms on the Zuider Zee, and to create new land for agriculture. The plan called for the creation of a dike separating the Wadden Zee from the Zuider Zee. The Wadden Zee refers to that part of the North Sea between the coasts of the provinces of North Holland, Friesland and Groningen, and the barrier islands Texel, Vlieland, Terschelling, Ameland, Schiemonnikoog and a few uninhabited islands (see Figure 10). Building of the dike would transform the Zuider Zee in the sweet water lake IJssel Meer.

Construction of this dike, the 'Afsluitdijk' – see Figure 11- was started in January 1927 and closure was achieved on March 23, 1932. The dike was opened to traffic on September 25, 1933.

While the Afsluitdijk was being constructed, the Wieringer Lake was dammed in 1927 (Figure 12) and drained on August 31, 1930, resulting in the 200 km² Wieringermeer polder.



Figure 10: Wadden Zee and its barrier islands.

Figure 12: Enclosing the

Wieringermeer.



Figure 11: The 'Afsluitdijk.'



Unfortunately, the dikes were destroyed by German troops at several locations in 1945, and the polder was completely destroyed. However, the damage to the dikes was repaired and the polder pumped dry that same year.

After the completion of the Afsluitdijk, work started on creating the other polders envisioned by the Lely-plan. Building of the 54 km dike for the Noord-Oost polder began in 1936, and was completed in December 1940. World War 2 slowed down the draining of the polder, but with the help

of two electrical pumping stations, the polder was dry in 1942. The islands of Urk and Schokland had now become part of 48,000 hectare of new land.

The original Lely plan envisioned a single Flevoland polder, but it was actually built in two parts. Work on the dike for the Oost-Flevoland polder started in June of 1950, and was completed on December 13, 1956 after the work was delayed by a year because all personnel and equipment were re-assigned to repair the dikes damaged by the February 1953 flood (see below). The polder was pumped dry in 1957 and measures 54,000 hectare. Its complement, South-Flevoland was constructed between 1959 and 1968 and added another 43,000 hectares to the Netherlands. The new city of Almere arose there, providing much relief for the housing shortages in Amsterdam. The dike for the final polder, Markerwaard, was built, but the polder was never drained. The resulting lake within a lake has become a major (recreational) sailing area and one can now drive from, say Kampen or Zwolle in the east of the Netherlands, across the Oost-Flevoland and Markerwaard dikes to Enkhuizen in the west of the Netherlands.

Relying on dikes to protect low-lying land is not without risk. Storm-driven water may breach dikes, leading to extensive flooding, as happened in February of 1953 in Zeeland and South Holland.



Figure 13: Breached dike at Willemstad.

In the early morning of Sunday, February 1, an emergency situation was created as a very strong storm pushed water over the dike at Zwijndrecht, the polder at

Dordrecht started to flood and multiple dike breaches occurred in Zeeland (Figure 13). The islands of Schouwen-Duiveland and Goeree-Overflakkee were almost completely inundated. More than 1300 people did not survive the resulting floods despite rescue operations by the military and Red Cross (Figure 14).

Provisional repair of the dikes started quickly by the local citizenry (Figure 15). More permanent repair was done by personnel working on

the ring dike around Oost-Flevoland (part of the Zuiderzee Works); all of them were reassigned to repair the dike damage, halting the work on the Oost-Flevoland polder for a whole year (Figure 16).



Figure 15: Improvised dike repair at Stavenisse on Tholen, Zeeland.

Figure 16: Dike worker.



Money to aid the victims was collected through a special 'Watersnood' (water disaster) stamp with a 10 cent sur-

charge (Figure 17). More than 15 million copies of the stamp were



RODEKRU

Figure 14: Red

Cross water

rescue.

Figure 17: 'Watersnood' stamp with surcharge to aid the disaster victims.

sold between its issue on February 10 and the end of its validity on December 31, 1954.

The 1953 disaster was only the latest in a series of floods that occurred in 1808, 1825, 1894, 1906, and 1916. The 1916 flood, which primarily affected low-lying land along the Zuiderzee, resulted in the Afsluitdijk project mentioned before. The 1953 disaster

led to the Delta works (Figure 18), aimed at developing a reliable defense against high water and storm floods in the southwestern part of the Netherlands. This part of the country is formed by the estuaries of three large Euro-



pean rivers: the Rhine (Rijn), the Meuse (Maas) and the Scheldt (Schelde), as well as their tributaries.

Figure 18: The Delta Plan.

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The Delta plan would result in shortening the Dutch coast line by about 700 km, through the building of dams in the Haringvliet, Brouwershavense Gat, Oosterschelde, Veerse Gat, Zandkreek, Grevelingen and Volkerak. The Haringvliet dam, completed in 1971, has 17 sluices with two doors each and several kilometers of dike. The sluices allow the entering of salt water into the Maas and Rhine rivers to prevent them from freezing.

The 6 km long Grevelingendam was completed after seven years of work in 1965 using caissons – open concrete boxes that were sunk and filled with sand and rock (see the 4+4 ct stamp in Figure 18). Cable cars were used to ferry the sand and rocks (Figure 19).



Figure 19: Cable cars were used to close the Grevelingen dam.

Construction of the Oosterschelde 'kering' (barrier) started in April 1976 and was completed in June 1986. It is 9 km long and the longest 'dam' of the Delta works. Initially designed as a closed-off dam, it

was eventually constructed with three movable flood barriers and two artificial islands (see Figure 20). The barriers are normally open, allowing for salt water to enter the Oosterschelde and maintaining the shrimp and oyster cultures (Figure 21).

The largest of the artificial island, Neeltje Jans, now houses a fun park with Delta works-related expositions and various attractions.

The Delta works also improved the mutual land connection between the Zeeland and South-Holland islands and with the North



and Center of the Netherlands. The Zeeland Bridge (Figure 22), connecting Noord-Beveland and Schouwen, was opened by Queen Juliana on December 15, 1965. The five kilometer bridge was for several years the longest bridge in Europe. The Westerschelde tunnel under the Schelde (2003), also helped increase mobility.

Figure 22: Zeeland Bridge.

The Delta works were declared finished after almost fifty years in 1997 (Figure 23). However, the Delta com-





Figure 21: View of the completed Oosterschelde Barrier (right), and the open barriers (left).

mission has advised that the Netherlands would need a massive new building program to strengthen the country's water defenses against the anticipated effects of global warming for the next 190 years. In other words, the civil engineers in The Netherlands will continue to have a job.



Figure 23: Delta Plan.

Kantoor Displaced Persons Medan, D.E.I 1945-46

by Hans Kremer

Soon after the Japanese occupied the Dutch East Indies in March 1942 about 100,000 Dutch men, women and children were put into internment camps. Most of them remained in those camps for more than three years, until the Japanese surrender in August 1945.

One would think that these Dutch people would then be released immediately but that was not the case. Indonesian nationalists had no desire to once again be part of the Netherlands and thus would be hostile to the Dutch coming out of the camps. Accordingly, the internees were advised to stay put for the time being until the nationalists could be reasonably 'controlled'.

Ironically the defense of the internment camps fell upon the Japanese since the Allies did not have the manpower available to take over so quickly.

Since the defeat of the Japanese was expected for a while, plans had been made to organize an efficient way to get the internees back on their feet once they were released.

Just prior to the Japanese invasion a number of higher ranking Dutch civil servants (among them the Acting Governor-General, Van Mook) had moved from Batavia to Brisbane (Australia) where they stayed until shortly after the Japanese surrender in August 1945.

In Brisbane, in July 1945 the Kantoor Displaced Persons (KDP) (Office for Displaced Persons) was set up. Among its main functions were:

- 1) The organization of care for liberated internees in the Dutch East Indies;
- 2) Recruiting, training and organizing staff for the care of liberated internees and for assistance in taking care of other 'displaced persons';
- 3) Applying, administering and preparing the distribution of supplies necessary for the implementation of the above-defined tasks.

In the mean-time the SEAC (South East Asia Command (the body set up in overall charge of Allied operations in South East Asia during World War II) under the command of Lord Mountbatten had set up the **RAPWI** (Recovery of Allied Prisoners of War and Internees),

By the middle of September 1945 RAPWI teams begun to evacuate prisoners of war from Java, but the first British troops did not land on Sumatra until October 1945.

The former civilian internees on Sumatra, who were put up in a few large camps in the sparsely populated interior, were taken to the coast as soon as possible and concentrated in the cities of Padang, Medan, and Palembang. All of the camps had been evacuated by the end of November. The RAPWI teams (and also the KDP) worked in Medan with local Red Cross committees. Civilian internees were taken care of by the KDP. The Dutch internees who ended up in Medan were put up in houses in a gated part of town called Polonia (Figure 1).

All internees had to be registered by the KDP (Figure 2) and medically examined before departing for home.

The Polonia district was in the southern part of the city between the two rivers, which come together in the center of the city, a favorable situation regarding the safety against possible attacks by Indonesian Nationalists.

Figure 1: The Polonia area is the triangular area between the two rivers.

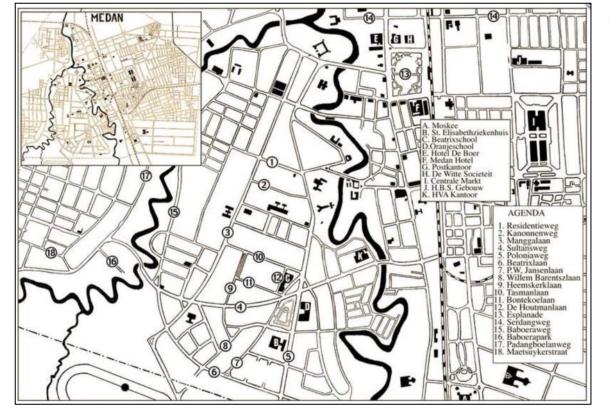


Figure 2: KDP registration card.

Of course the internees wanted their friends and families to know how they were doing but there were a couple of problems with this. The Indonesians working for the post offices (PTT) did not want to cooperate with the returning Dutch personnel, so the Dutch had to establish temporary post offices to handle the mail of the Dutch internees. For this purpose, in Medan, the bowling alley of the "Witte Societeit" was used, which was far from ideal. A detail of the Polonia map (Figure 3) shows that the Witte Societeit was next door to the main post office. Both were outside, but close to the Polonia area. The PTT soon moved to the entire ground floor of the office of the Nederlandsche Handels

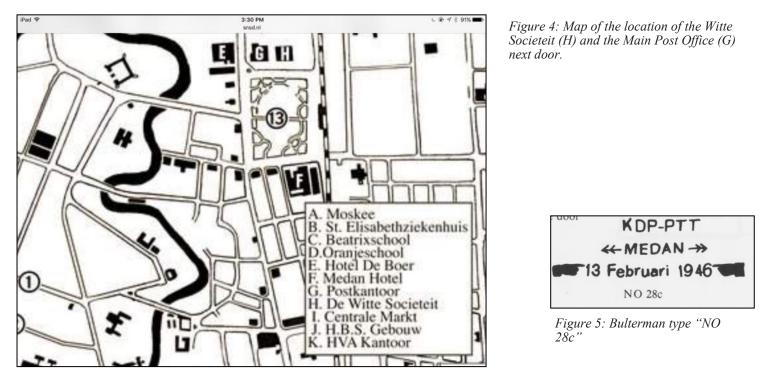
Naam: VAN OVEN	Registratie No. : 26 W <u>TX</u> /KDP/
Voornamen: LOUISE, ANNA	3M/V
Gebaren te: MEDAN dd.	A3-5-1924.
*Ongehuwd *Gobuwd	
*Wedawe *Wedawnaar	
"Doorhaten wat niet van toepassing is,	

Maatschappij (NHM). The NHM offices also housed the English office for "displaced persons."

Since during this period of the temporary post office no official PTT cancels were available, 'make do' cancels (markers) were made in Medan with the text KDP-PTT Medan. Various models were in use from December 1945 thru the end of March 1946.

The most common 'marker' is Bulterman type "NO 28c" (Figure 5).

The mail from Sumatra to the Netherlands went via Singapore, all Java mail went via Batavia.



One 'Medan' internee wrote:

"The Red Cross rendered first-class service.... Paper was available in large quantities but we couldn't put stamps on our letters because there weren't any. Our families in Holland had to pay the postage due — poor devils. But in fact we wrote as little as possible", and also "The Displaced Persons Office (KDP) and RAPWI (Relief Allied Prisoners of War and Internees) organized postal deliveries to our houses. No letters passed through native hands and we could be sure that letters and parcels were correctly delivered and not lost. Many other buildings were controlled by the Nationalists who organized their own postal system."

Since stamps were not yet available on Java and Sumatra, any letter could be sent free of postage, However, as of December 13, 1945 the receiver of the letter had to pay the regular airmail postage (30 cent) unless the sender was a POW or member of the Red Cross; those people could still send letters postage free. See Figure 6 for an example of a letter charged in the Netherlands.

Figure 6: Letter sent January 28, 1946 from Medan to the Netherlands. 30 cent postage paid in the Netherlands.



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That the rules were not strictly enforced shows the dates (all after December 13, 1945) of the covers I've seen online. Only three of the ten have the mandatory 30 cent postage stamp on it:

8:

- 1: Jan.15, 1946 N.S (= no stamp)
- 2: Jan. 17, 1946 N.S.
- 3: Jan. 17, 1946 N.S.
- 4: Jan. 26, 1946 (30 cent postage) 5: Jan. 28, 1946 (30 cent postage)
- 6: Feb. 4, 1946 N.S. 7: Feb. 7, 1946 (30 c
 - Feb. 7, 1946 (30 cent postage)
 - Feb. 15, 1946 N.S.
- 9: Feb. 28, 1946 N.S. 10: Mar. 27, 1946 N.S.
 - 1.111.27, 1940 IN.S.

O Want Mar fre derraus M. W. Ya Schien eg 120 A,

Figure 7: Letter sent February 1946 from Medan to the Netherlands. Sender did not qualify as a POW or an "I(nternee?) Mail?' beneficiary. 30 cent postage was paid in the Netherlands.

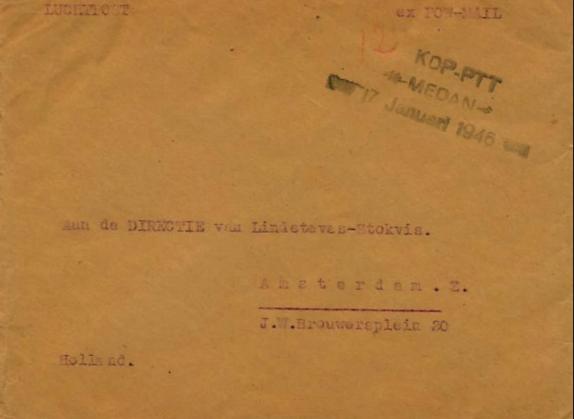


Figure 8: Letter sent January 1946 from Medan to the Netherlands. "ex-POW MAIL" (top right): free franking.

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http://www.en.afscheidvanindie.nl/archieven-onderwerpen-rapwi.aspx

Alan Bartlett, Personal correspondence

Nomenclature

In Po&Po Verenigingsnieuws (Society News) 2017-3, Bert van Marrewijk wrote a brief piece about the nomenclature of the different 'typenradar' (type wheel) cancels. Referring to Figure 1, and going clockwise starting in

the upper-left corner, they are long-bar cancel ('lange balk stempel'), shortbar cancel ('korte balk stempel'), open bar cancel ('open balk stempel'), open bar cancel ('open balk stempel') and does not refer to free drinks) and cylinder cancel ('cilinder stempel'). It would be a good idea if all of us to followed this nomenclature.



Figure 1: Upper left: long-bar cancel. Upper right: short bar cancel. Lower right: open bar cancel. Lower left: cylinder cancel.

Recent Issues



Children;s Stamps

October 9, 2017

PostNL will issue a new sheet with Children's Stamps. These stamps, with value indicator 1 for destinations in the Netherlands, depict the complete family from the family comic strip 'Jan, Jans and the children.' The issue honors the drawer of the comic, Jan Kruis, who passed away on January 19, 2017.

Day of the Stamp

October 20, 2017

The Day of the Stamp sheet pays tribute to one of the oldest stamps in the Netherlands: the famous Queen Wilhelmina with hanging hair. These stamps were issued between 1891 and 1896 in fifteen values, ranging from 3 cent to 5 guilder. They have been in use till January 1, 1900 when they were withdrawn. The permanent stamp of Queen Wilhelmina with fur collar was issued in 1899 as a replacement.

DAG VAN DE POSTZEGEL 2017



DAG VAN DE POSTZEGEL 2017

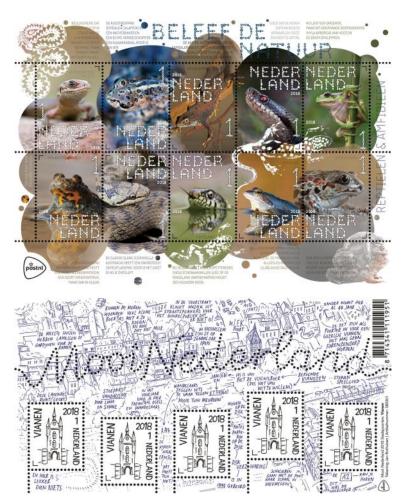


December Stamps November 20, 2017

Every year, PostNL issues new December stamps that can be used to mail Christmas and New Year cards at a reduced rate (0.73 Euro in 2017). The stamps are valid from November 20, 2017 through January 6, 2018.

The ten different stamps were made by ten different designers. Each stamp represents the interpretation of a personal Christmas story as told by a well-known Dutch person from the television or show business world. The names of these persons are written in the sheet edge.

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Experience Nature: reptiles and amphibians January 2, 2018

This sheet with ten stamps shows reptiles and amphibians that one can encounter in the Netherlands. Four reptiles are shown: the live-birth giving lizard, the adder, smooths snake and the rin snake. The amphibians shown are the comb salamander, backstriped toad, tree frog, yellow-bellied toad, heather frog and the garlic toad.

Beautiful the Netherlands: City Gates January 29, 2018

Three sheets are issued showing the city gates of Vianen, Bergen op Zoom and Hattem. The stamps depict a pen drawing of the city gate of the three cities, namely the Lek Gate (Vianen), Prisoner Gate (Bergen op Zoom) and the Dike Gate (Hattem). The background is a map (in perspective) of the surroundings of the city gate in question, with handwritten text reflecting on the people and buildings the designer encountered while walking through the city.





Detailed information about the recent issues can be found at http://collectclub.postnl.nl/ This site also shows the personal stamps and silver stamps issued by PostNL.

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