

*Dated Journal*

**FROM: Netherlands Philately**  
**1308 Pin Oak Drive**  
**Dickinson, TX 77539-**  
**USA**

**Sharing knowledge of Netherlands**  
**& Overseas Areas philately since**  
**1975**

# Netherlands Philately

**Magazine of the American Society for Netherlands Philately**

**Volume 45/3**



TO:



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# NETHERLANDS PHILATELY

## Magazine of the American Society for Netherlands Philately; Volume 45/3

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### Editor's Message

January, 2021

Dear Fellow Collectors,

Another year has passed. The new one promises to be better than 2020, now that Covid vaccines have arrived. Let us hope that philatelic events will commence again soon and that travel restrictions will be lifted.

Several of you have responded positively to the Call for Papers for the Special Issue on the occasion of 150 years stamps of Curaçao and Suriname. You still have two more years to respond as well! Just e-mail the Guest-Editor Alex Nuyten at stampculture@gmail.com.

This issue contains three articles covering postal automation, air mail letters sheets, and 'Martin' postmarks. Hopefully you enjoy them as much as I did.

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 300 dpi or better). Contact the Magazine Editor in case of questions.

Netherlands Philately is published 6x per year by the American Society for Netherlands Philately, a non-profit organization founded in 1975 by Paul van Reyen and registered in the State of Illinois.

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ASNP is affiliate No. 60 of APS Adverting rates per issue are:  
\$50 for a full page,  
\$30 half page and  
\$20 for a quarter page.

# Letters from home and several mysteries surrounding them.

*by Marinus Quist*

It was with great interest and delight that I read Jan Verster's article in *Netherlands Philately*, Volume 44, Number 6 about the voluminous correspondence to/from his father while his father was a soldier in service in the Netherlands East Indies ("NEI") during the period 1947-1950. Coincidentally, just after the publication of my article in *Netherlands Philately* Volume 44, Number 5, pp 86-92 about the NEI Military Air Letter Sheets ("MALS"), I wrote a rough draft of an article about the return mail from the Netherlands to Dutch military personnel in the NEI during the period 1947-1950. I had planned to submit that article for publication in the very next issue of *Netherlands Philately*. However, things got delayed because several examples that I needed for illustration purposes were coming by mail from Europe; and, at the time, mail from Europe was very, very slow due to the drastic reduction in trans-Atlantic air traffic caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Anyway, when I first saw Jan Verster's fascinating article, I was afraid that mine might be redundant and need to be discarded or totally revised. Happily, however, only a few facts seem to be duplicated, and the articles actually complement each other. Therefore, I have decided to go ahead and submit mine for publication. I just hope that our readership won't be put off or bored by yet another article about essentially the same subject matter. If anyone has any answers to the questions/mysteries raised in my article (or any comment), please feel free to contact me by e-mail at: [marinusquist@gmail.com](mailto:marinusquist@gmail.com).

## Letters from home

The NEI MALS had been introduced in an effort to reduce the weight and volume of airmail letters generated by the thousands of Dutch soldiers, sailors, marines, and air force personnel that had been sent to the NEI immediately after the end of WW II. They had been sent there to help secure the safety and welfare of the many thousands of Dutch POWs and civilian internees of the Japanese occupiers and to try to regain control of the NEI following the declaration of an independent Republic of Indonesia just two days after VJ-Day. So what was done to reduce the weight and volume of airmail arriving from the mother country? After all, correspondence usually works in two directions and the airmail capabilities were just as limited, coming and going.

In fact, the PTT in the Netherlands was a bit ahead of the PTT in the NEI as regards the matter of weight and volume reduction of mail between the Netherlands and the NEI. This was undoubtedly because WWII had ended in the Netherlands by early May 1945, while WWII continued in the NEI until mid-August 1945 and immediately morphed into revolutionary chaos with the Indonesian declaration of independence. One of the big hurdles facing the Dutch was the fact that the main islands of Java and Sumatra were not yet liberated from Japanese occupation by the Allied Forces by the time of the Japanese surrender, and many thousands of Dutch civilian internees and even some Allied POWs went from being prisoners of the Japanese to being prisoners of the Indonesian rebels or worse. In fact, the last three months of 1945 were particularly bad (the so-called "Bersiap Period") when many thousands of Westerners, mostly Dutch civilians, became the victims of terrorist atrocities. It was not until sometime in 1946 that some semblance of Dutch control was re-established on Java, but then only in the major cities of Batavia, Soerabaja, Semarang, and Bandoeng. Similarly on Sumatra, Dutch control really only extended to the major cities of Medan, Palembang, and Padang.

Thus, it was that on April 14, 1947, pursuant to P.T.T. Service Order No. 158 dated March 19, 1947, the Netherlands issued its very first aerogrammes (air letter sheets). These aerogrammes, which are listed as Nos. 1a and 1b in Geuzendam's *Catalogus van de Postwaardestukken van Nederland en Overzeese Rijksdelen*, 2008, 8th edition ("Geuzendam"), were to be used exclusively for correspondence with Dutch Military personnel in the NEI. Number 1a has a large letter "L" on the front (Figure 1) and was to be used for correspondence with army (landmacht) and air force personnel (luchtmacht) personnel; while No. 1b had a large letter "M" on the front (Figure 2) and was to be used for correspondence with navy (marine) personnel and marines (mariniers). These aerogrammes, which cost eleven (11) cents each, were printed in a rather garish violet/fuchsia color on cream-colored paper and feature an imprinted ten (10) cent Queen Wilhelmina stamp-like indicium of the well-known W.A. van Konijnenburg design.



Figure 1: Air letter sheet for mail to army and air force personnel.



Figure 2: Air letter sheet for mail to navy personnel.

The size of these aerogrammes (approx. 250 mm x 170 mm, not counting the gummed flaps) is similar to that of the NEI small format MALS; and, like the NEI small format MALS, these first aerogrammes of the Netherlands were to be folded into quarters (one horizontal and one vertical fold) for mailing. Interestingly, like NEI MAL No. 6 and several of the pre-war NEI letter sheets (postbladen), the left inside panel was printed with an all-over security network or overlay in violet (Figure 3). What purpose this printed overlay served eludes me.

In fact, although some writers wrote through the printed network, usually with dark ink and bold lettering, the network does make any message harder to read. As a result, many writers only wrote on the clear panels. However, it is difficult to draw any definitive conclusions about this, as genuinely used examples of Nos. 1a and 1b are fairly scarce (Figure 4). Used examples of No. 1b appears to be much scarcer than No. 1a., which makes sense, since the number of army and air force personnel greatly outnumbered the naval personnel and marines stationed in the NEI.

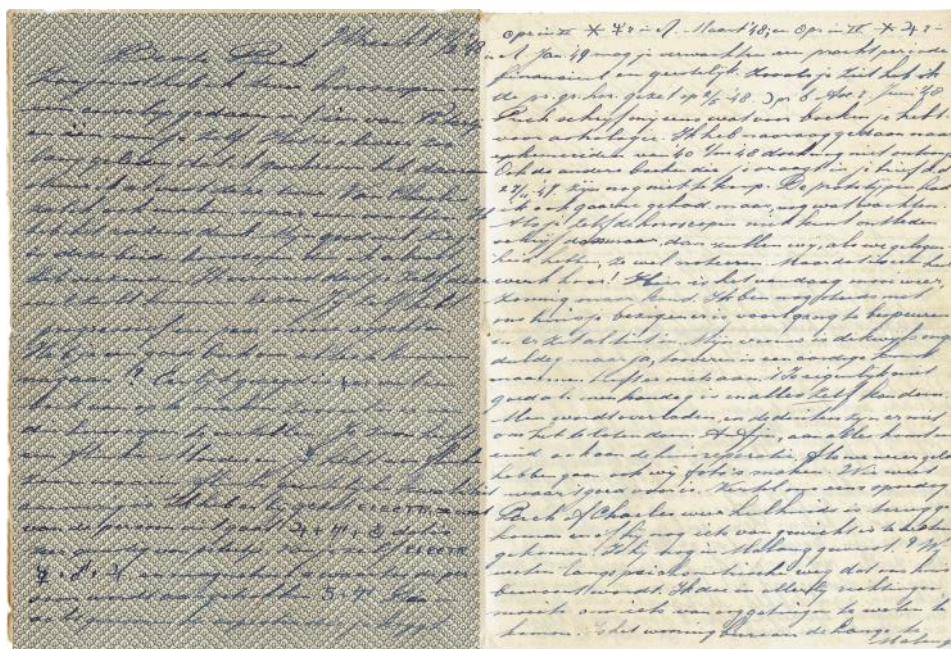


Figure 3: Printer overlay on left, inside panel.



Figure 4: Genuinely used example of letters sheet 1a and 1b.

Geuzendam's aerogramme No. 2, first issued on October 29, 1948, again came with a large letter "L" printed on the front. There was no separate "M" variety this time, as there was probably still a sufficient inventory of No.

1b available. Again, No. 2 could only be used for correspondence with members of the KNIL and the Dutch army and air force in the NEI. Number 2 was the same color, size/format as Nos. 1a and 1b, but the imprinted ten (10) cent stamp-like indicium of Queen Wilhelmina was of the up-dated S.L. Hartz design (Figure 5).

This time, the annoying violet network on the inside left-hand panel was replaced with a pleasant light blue color across both the left and right-hand inside panels. According to Geuzendam, No. 2 was printed on both cream-colored and light tan (chamois) paper, and Geuzendam assigned them catalog numbers 2a and 2b, respectively (with only a slight difference in catalog values). However, I am unsure if the difference in paper color is easy to determine or not, as examples of No. 2 are not as frequently encountered as Nos. 1a and 1b (especially genuinely used examples of No. 2). Furthermore, in light of Geuzendam's general comment that the paper used to produce aerogrammes was very sensitive to light and often discolors over time, I am not sure if the difference between No. 2a and No. 2b can be determined with any certainty. An interesting note in Geuzendam following the listing of Nos. 2a and 2b mentions that an administrative order in the files of the Com-

munications Museum in The Hague shows a delivery of

Figure 5: Geuzendam 2 aerogramme.



2.7 million copies, but it is unclear whether the different paper colors resulted from multiple printing lots, or not.

Note that during this time period (1947-1950) the regular rate for an airmail letter (up to 10 grams) sent from the Netherlands to the NEI was thirty (30) cents. However, to encourage and facilitate mail from friends and relatives in the home country to those in military service half a world away, the franking rate was discounted to ten (10) cents (the regular domestic postage rate) although only up to 10 grams and with no enclosures. This is similar (although not exactly the same) as the U.S. practice, where mail to service men/women overseas only needs to be franked at the regular domestic rate for mailing to Army Post Offices (APOs) and Fleet Post Offices (FPOs) via the Postmaster at major gateways, like New York and San Francisco, from where the military mail handlers take over. While I have seen, and continue to see, for sale on the internet other forms of mail (postcards, privately printed aerogrammes, and envelopes) sent by air from the Netherlands to NEI service personnel at the so-called military rate of 10 cents, I am unaware that the PTT officially sanctioned such 10 cent military rate for anything other than their own officially-issued FALS.

On February 1, 1949, something slightly different was rolled out by the Netherlands PTT for airmail correspondence with service personnel in the Dutch overseas territories. Although not listed or pictured in Geuzendam, the new forms are described in a note following the description of aerogrammes 2a and 2b. They were unfranked aerogrammes or formula air letter sheets (“FALS”) with no imprinted stamp indicium, but simply a small block in the upper right-hand corner with the text “postzegel van 10 cent” (postage stamp of 10 cents). In fact, in size, color (blue and white), format, layout and an endlessly repeating diagonal overlay of the word “militairlucht-postblad” (military air letter sheet) printed on the back and front panels, these FALS closely resemble the elongated NEI MALS (Nos. 12-14), as described in my article about the NEI MALS. Like the MALS, the FALS are to be folded with two horizontal folds for mailing. Geuzendam’s note points out that these FALS were issued in four types: two with the word “Luchtpostblad” (air letter sheet) in a blue rectangular box in the upper left-hand corner of the front panel and either a large “M” or “L/KNIL” (Figure 6) in the lower left-hand corner of the front panel, and two with the word “Luchtpostblad Niets Insluiten” (air letter sheet no enclosures) in the same blue box and either the large “L/KNIL” (Figure 7) or “M” (Figure 8). Those with a large “L/KNIL” were to be used exclusively for correspondence sent to Dutch army (landmacht), air force (luchtmacht) and Royal Netherlands Indies Army (KNIL) personnel stationed in overseas areas of the Dutch Kingdom. Similarly, those with a large “M” printed on the front panel were to be used exclusively for correspondence directed to personnel in the Dutch navy (marine) or in the marines (mariniers) serving in overseas areas of the Dutch Kingdom.

## The mysteries

When I first ran across one of these FALS back in the late 1980s, I could find nothing about them in any catalogs, guidebooks or philatelic magazines. Although the FALS closely resemble the NEI elongated format MALS, they were not even mentioned by Ir. C. Stapel in his 1980 booklet, “De Postbladenkwesitie” (The Air Letter Sheet Matter). So I wrote to Ir. Stapel in the fall of 1989 and asked him about the FALS. He kindly wrote me back (I still have his letter) to advise that he was very familiar with the FALS. He pointed out that the FALS allowed for air-mail correspondence with service members (“L” and “M”) in overseas areas of the Kingdom at the domestic letter rate and that the FALS came in two different formats/sizes: small and elongated. Strangely, he did not address the two different text varieties in the blue rectangular box.

Then there is a variation that neither Ir. Stapel nor Geuzendam have mentioned. This is the fact that most of the FALS in my collection have rouletted flaps, like MALS No. 11a, but not all. For example, I have several unrouletted FALS in my collection of the “L” variety with the single word “Luchtpostblad” in the rectangular box. So, do all the FALS exist in both rouletted and unrouletted versions or just some? The bigger question might be, why did neither Geuzendam nor Ir. Stapel mention anything about rouletted and non-rouletted flaps?

So, do all the FALS exist in two different sized formats or just some? Was Ir. Stapel simply mistaken about different sizes? Although all of the FALS in my collection are elongated in size and I have never seen any (mint or used) examples of small format FALS, I suppose they could exist. After all, Ir. Stapel was a well-respected philatelist with a great deal of knowledge and experience, and I do not think it likely that he would err on this rather major point. So what is the answer?

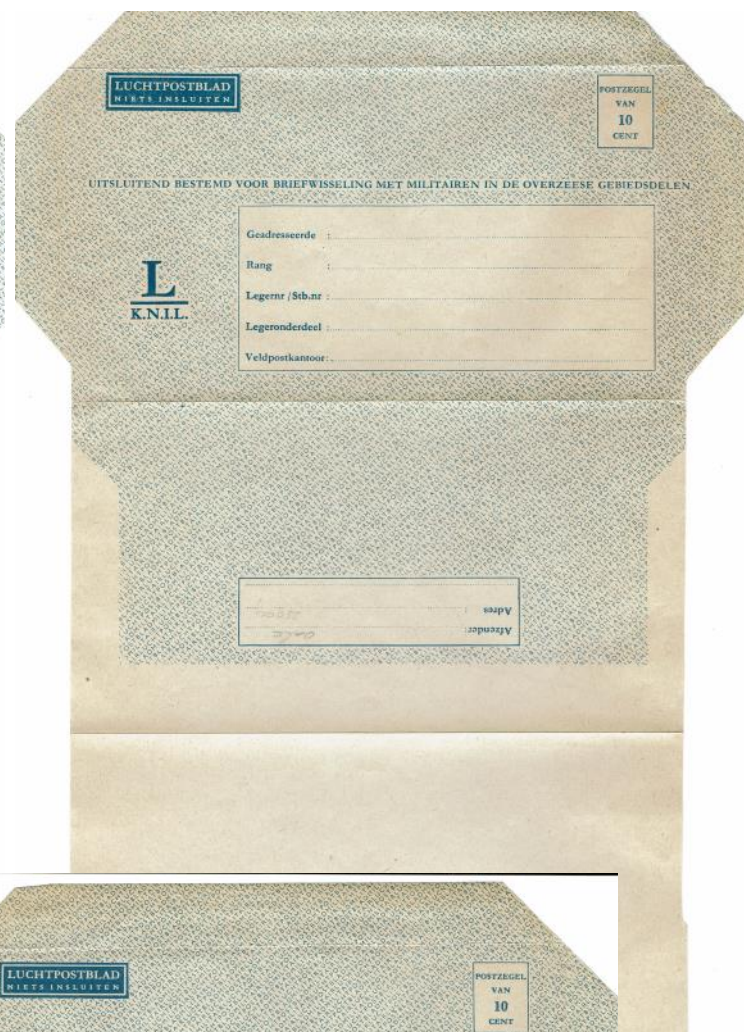


Figure 6 (Top left): Blue box with LUCHTPOST-BLAD.

Figure 7 (Top right): Blue box with LUCHTPOST-BLAD / NIETS INSLUITEN and large L (and KNIL).

Figure 8 (Right): as Figure 7, but with large M.

If all four FALS described by Geuzendam exist in rouletted and non-rouletted versions, then eight different FALS could exist. On the other hand, if all four FALS described by Geuzendam exist in both small format and elongated format as described by Ir. Stapel AND if all of those exist in rouletted and non-roulette versions, then sixteen different FALS could exist! Either way, the number of FALS is definitely greater than the four varieties described by in the 8th edition Geuzendam.

Please look through your FALS and let me know what you find. Fortunately, mint copies of these FALS are still quite common, although those with “L” seem to be much more common than those with “M”, and my collection still does not include an “M” example with only the word “Luchtpostblad” in the blue rectangular box. Again, the relative scarcity of “M” FALS versus “L” FALS is most likely due to the fact that the number of naval personnel and marines was much smaller than those of the army, air force, and KNIL. Used examples of the FALS however, are rarely seen in the philatelic trade, but are sometimes found in accumulations of family correspondence (Figures 9 and 10). Note that the example addressed to C.H. Quist (Figure 10) was sent to my Uncle Kees, who served with the KNIL for 1939 to 1950.

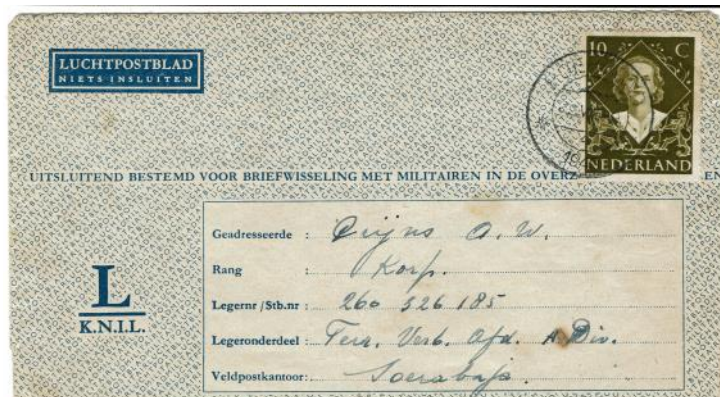


Figure 9: FALS mailed in 1949.



Figure 10: FALS mailed in 1950.

As with the MALS, use of the FALS fell off sometime in the early 1950s, since Indonesia was granted its full independence on December 27, 1949, and Dutch military forces started to be withdrawn soon thereafter. (Presumably, the FALS could also be used for correspondence with Dutch military forces stationed in Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles, since they were not limited for use to the NEI; but I have never seen any such usage.) Even the KNIL, which had been active in the NEI since 1814, ceased to exist as of 0001 hours on July 26, 1950 by order of Queen Juliana of the Netherlands. However, troop transport back to the Netherlands did not happen overnight, and some KNIL troops, such as my uncle, stayed in Indonesia for a while to assist the Indonesian army with the transition and assimilation of native troops into the Indonesian military. The bulk of the Ambonese troops from the KNIL chose not to assimilate into the Indonesian military, but that is a fascinating story for another day.

Now for a final mystery. This one involves Geuzendam's luchtpostbladen (aerogrammes) No. 1a and 1a described above. Recall that I previously used the phrase “genuine usage”. This is because I have several questionably-used copies without any written message inside. In fact, several such examples in my collection have never even been opened (still sealed shut) and the lack of a message inside is easily confirmed by holding them up to a strong light. See Figure 11 for several suspicious “used” examples, two (2) of which don't even have return addresses! The cancellations appear to be genuine, so the only conclusion I can draw is that these examples probably never entered the mail stream. Instead, they were likely cancelled to order (“CTO”) by a friendly postal clerk on a hand-back basis and may or may not have been addressed to a genuine person/address. (This is, in fact, not too much different than the way most first day covers are handled.)

One final point. I would like to take this opportunity to call upon the Geuzendam editors to list and illustrate all of the FALS that are known to them in the next edition of the postal stationary catalog. Strictly speaking, the FALS are not “postwaardestukken”, because they are not pre-franked with a stamp-like indicium. However, they were issued by the PTT and intended for mailing, not any different than the first two (2) post cards issued by the Netherlands and the first postcards issued by Curaçao and Suriname. Like the FALS, these were simply formula

cards (without even an imprinted franking instruction), and all of these are listed in Geuzendam. All the more reason, then, to list and describe the FALS in Geuzendam's fantastic catalog!



Figure 11: Examples of aerogrammes that were probably cancelled-to-order.

# The facer-cancelers of the Netherlands and the corresponding machine cancels (Part 3).

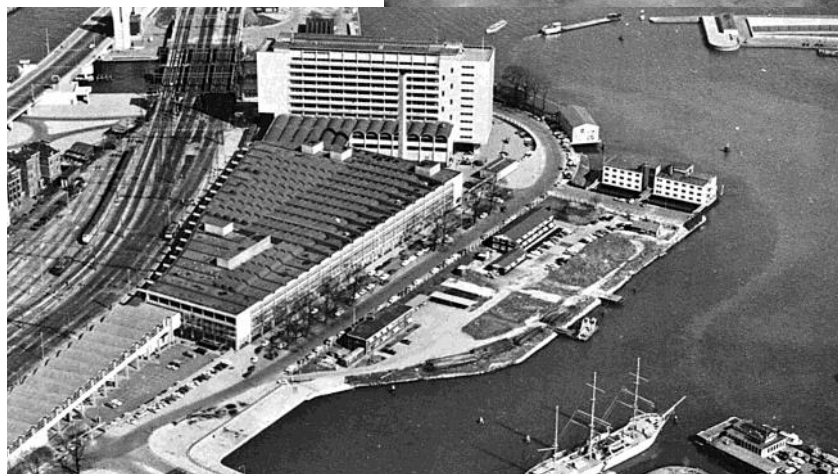
*by Jos M.A.G. Stroom*

## *The Toshiba Culler-Facer-Cancelers in Amsterdam*

The name Toshiba stands for TOKYO SHIBAURA Electric Company, a Japanese company founded in 1875 that manufactures a wide range of technical and electronic products for businesses and households, from televisions to elevators and computer related items.

In 1971, two Toshiba facer-cancelers (Figure 50) ordered by the PTT were placed in the District Post Office in Amsterdam (Figure 51) by the company Veenman Kantoormachines NV. The first machine arrived on August 27, 1971 and testing started on September 4, 1971.

*Figure 50: The two Toshiba culler-facer-cancelers that were installed and tested in August / September 1971 in the District Post Office in Amsterdam.*



*Figure 51: Aerial view from December 1976 of the District Post Office Oosterdokskade in Amsterdam. (Photo service PTT).*

From September 7, 1971, canceling took place during testing. Several test letters have been preserved (Figures 52, 53 and 54) from the test period. Test letters of various sizes, papers and weights were used, each with its own 'code' on it, such as PTT 022 (Figure 52) and PTT 121 (Figure 53). In addition, actual mail has also been used for testing (Figures 55 and 56).

In September 1971, many stamp issues printed on phosphorescent paper were already in circulation, such as the Europe stamps of February 1971. Some of them are known on Toshiba test mail (Figure 56).

The official day on which the machine was put into operation was September 27, 1971 (Figure 59). On that day of commissioning, the last tests were carried out at 8 am (Figure 57).

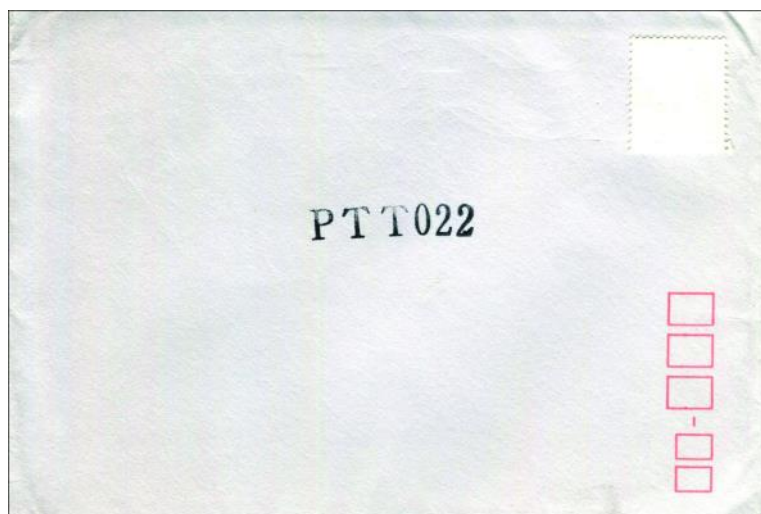


Figure 52: Left, Japanese test letter (recognizable by the 'post code boxes') with code PTT 022, the code for a letter of this format, paper type and weight. A blank phosphorescent vignette has been attached.

Above, Detail. No ink imprint can be seen to the left of and on the phosphorescent vignette. However, when illuminated under a low angle, clear 'dry' imprints of the wavy lines flag, the name AMSTERDAM and the four corners of the postmark are visible. No date indication has been used during this test.



Figure 53: Test letter with code PTT 121, the code for a small size air-mail envelope and weighing up to 5 grams.

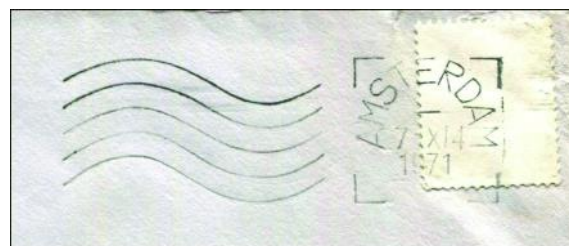


Figure 54: Toshiba cancellation on a Japanese test letter from the first Toshiba machine in Amsterdam, September 7, 1971. This is the earliest known day on which testing was also done with inked cancellations.



Figure 55: Earliest known Toshiba flag cancel on actual mail, a postcard of 20 cent, with phosphor bar across the center of the stamp indicium (Geuzendam 343). Postmark date September 14, 1971, noon.



Figure 56: Business letter, franked with a 25 cent Europe stamp from May 1971, printed on phosphorescent paper (NVPH 990) and used on September 23, 1971 as a test item in the Toshiba machine in Amsterdam.

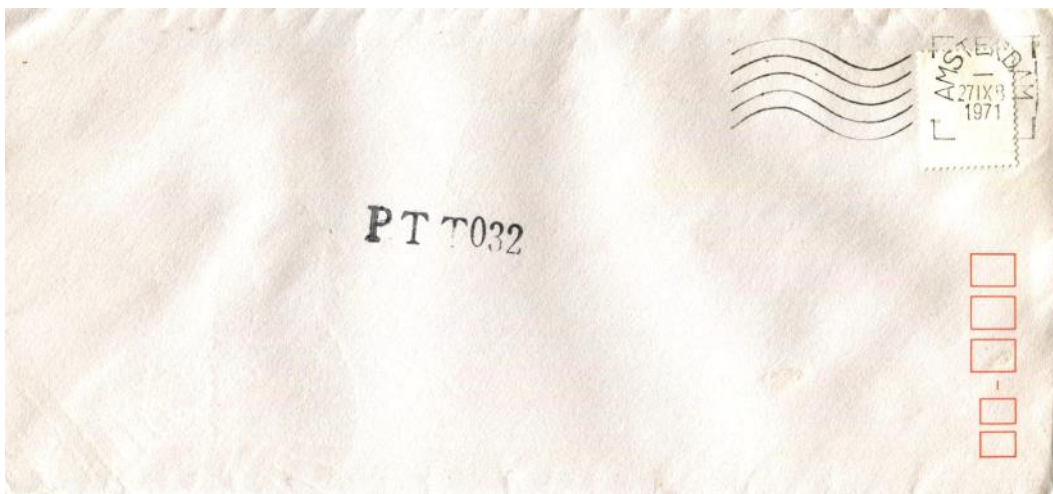


Figure 57: Test letter (PTT 032, oblong format) with cancellation of the official day of commissioning, September 27, 1971. Cancelled at 8 o'clock in the morning, during the final tests.

A 'first day cancel' was provided to all members of the former Study Group Ultraviolet by secretary Mr. Aben from Vlijmen (Fig. 58).

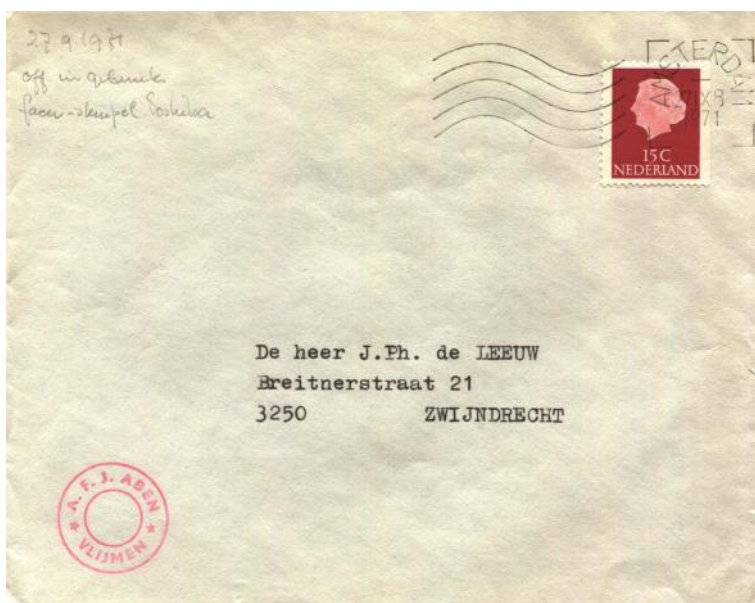


Figure 58: Test letter (PTT 032, oblong format) with cancellation of the official day of commissioning, September 27, 1971. Cancelled at 8 o'clock in the morning, during the final tests.



Figure 59: Business letter with stamp for the 60th birthday of Prince Bernhard (NVPH 994) cancelled in the Toshiba facer-canceler on the day of commissioning, September 27, 1971, at 6 pm.

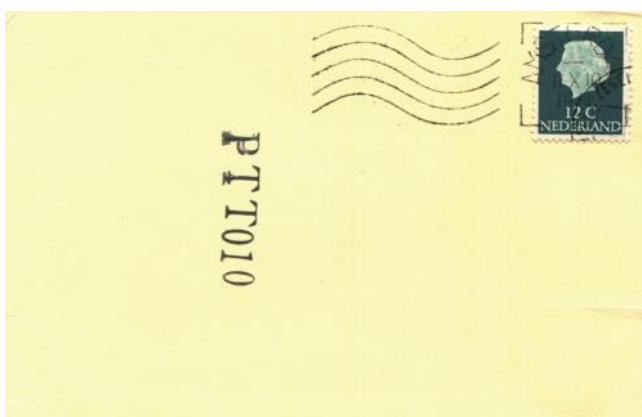


Figure 60: Toshiba test card (PTT 010) with phosphorescent stamp Queen Juliana (in profile) of 12 cents (NVPH 618b), pre-cancelled - per block of four - with a hand stamp 'Directie Zegelwaarden Haarlem'.

The second Toshiba machine arrived in Amsterdam on October 1, 1971, cancelled test letters and actual mail are known from October 11 (Figure 60).

In preparation for the luminescence detection, a few postal stationery items had been issued with a phosphorescent bar (Figure 61).

The last imprints of the Toshiba machines known to me date from September 1975 (Figure 62).

In 1977 two new facer-cancelers were installed in Amsterdam, this time of the Nippon Electric Company (NEC) brand (with cancel head type XVII). More about these machines in a future chapter of this series

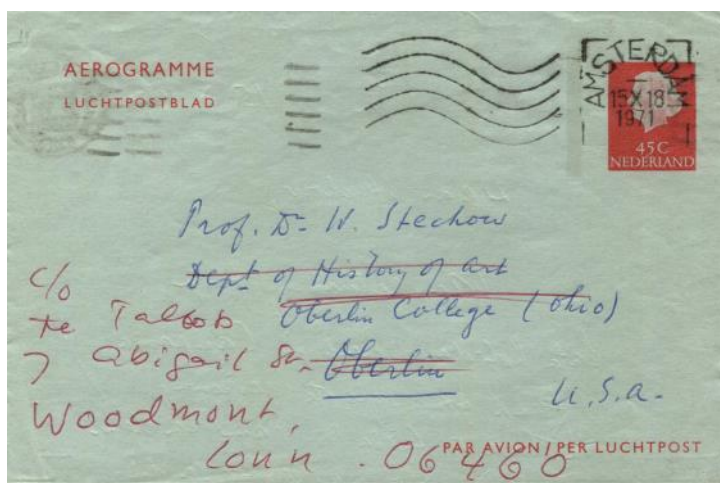


Figure 61: Non-philatelic used airmail sheet with Queen Juliana (in profile) of 45 cent, with a phosphorescent bar to the left of the stamp image (Geuzendam 19), sent to the United States on October 15, 1971.



Figure 62: Late imprint of the Toshiba machine, September 8, 1975.

### The Toshiba flag cancels

The unsurpassed compiler of the Machine Cancel Catalog, Mr. F.W. van der Wart, has not acknowledged the Amsterdam Toshiba cancellations - at least not listed as such separately - as facer cancellations in his catalog. We already saw that this was also the case with the SEL cancellations in Rotterdam. But that omission is defensible, because the SEL cancellations are in terms of appearance indistinguishable from those of the manually-operated Klüssendorf machines.

Although the Toshiba cancellation bears some resemblance to the Flier Type XV (Figure 63), they are clearly distinguishable from each other. The Toshiba cancellations have - just like the Flier - a rectangular postmark, but the characters of the place name AMSTERDAM are completely different. Possibly even more convincing are the wavy lines of the flag cancel (Figure 64).

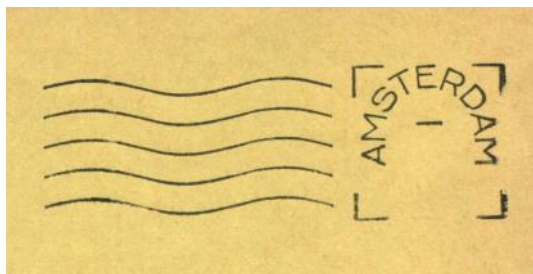


Figure 63: Test card with an undated imprint of the flag cancel from a manually operated Flier canceling machine in Amsterdam.



Figure 64: 1971 Toshiba cancellation with a distinctive postmark and heavily undulating wavy lines in the flag.

In my opinion, Van der Wart should have mentioned this obvious variant in his catalog. He catalogued them under 'Amsterdam Type XV, flag on the left, 5 wavy lines'. From 1971 through 1974 only the Toshiba cancellations appear. It was not until November 1975 - when the Toshiba machine is out of order - that the common Flier cancellations Type XV are known to me again. This omission is also remarkable, as philatelic periodicals from 1971 pay attention to the new Toshiba machines in Amsterdam and show an example of an imprint. Mr. Meijer, the founder of the former Studiegroep Ultra Violet, even called them a Klüssendorf cancellation [18] in 1971.

The common Klüssendorf cancellations in the Netherlands have a round postmark and are catalogued as Type XVI.

## *The variants of the Toshiba cancellations of Amsterdam*

The imprints of the Toshiba cancellations appear in a number of variants, about which there is much to tell. Mr. Victor Badran, a rising star in the research of Dutch machine cancellations, has done extensive research on this. He had more than 1000 imprints from the period September 1971 to September 1975 at his disposal. He found a total of 20 postmark variants, all with their own recognizable wavy line flag (the 20 main types). Five of these postmarks also appeared with a different wavy line flag (5 subtypes), so a total of 25 combinations were found. The differences are sometimes very small and it goes too far to include them all in this article. He will publish his research results in a separate publication [19].

### *Groups of postmark variants*

The variants (or types) can be divided into three clearly distinguishable groups:

1. Postmarks with a wide A (Figure 65, and Figure 68);
2. Postmarks with a narrow A (Figure 66);
3. Postmarks with a different R, where the S is also smaller and more narrow (Figure 67).



Figure 65: Wide A.



Figure 66: Narrow A.



Figure 67: Different R (with straight leg) and S.

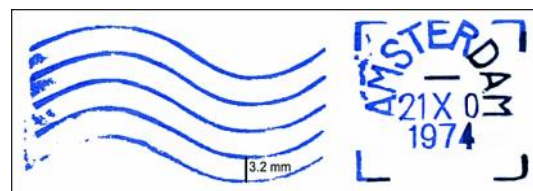
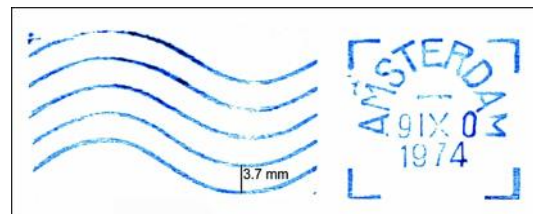


Figure 68: Beautiful imprint of October 25, 1971 of the Toshiba cancellation from Group 2: with the narrow A. There is no phosphorescent material on this unfranked reply card. Apparently the machine could cancel it anyway ...?

### *The wavy lines flag*

Sometimes the differences in the postmark are minimal, as shown in Figures 69a and b. The left cancel has a postmark with a square bottom right corner, on the right cancel it is round. The main difference between the two combinations is the distance between the two wavy lines at the bottom.

Figure 69: A (top), Badran's Type 16, with square bottom the right corner and 3.7 mm distance between the two lowest wavy lines.  
B (bottom), Type 18 with round corner and 3.2 mm distance between the two lowest wavy lines.



## The periods of use

During the test phases of both the first (before September 27), and the second machine (first known date October 11), until October 17 only two variants have been found [20]. That means that the dies from one machine were used in the other. Each machine had two canceling devices, with dies from Klüssendorf. It is not clear until when the test with the second machine ran.

Remarkable is that the period of use is sometimes very short. For example, Badran's type T8 only served 45 days. It is not clear why this was the case; the last day's imprint of this type does not show signs of wear (Figure 70). The same applies to many other types (variants).



Figure 70: Imprint of Toshiba cancellation type T8 on the last day of use of that variant, July 31, 1972. The imprint does not show any sign of wear in the cancellation.

But the opposite also occurs, for example, a type with a period of use of 839 days (about 2 years and four months), has also been found.

During the last year of use of the Toshiba, often only two or three postmark variants have been found side-by-side. Would only one machine have been in use during the months of March-September 1975? Or is there just too little cancelled material available so far? Or does the following quote from G.H.F. Meijer [21] give an explanation?

*Our man at the district post office Oka (Oosterdokskade ) informed us that Toshiba II was still canceling with the wavy lines, because this machine had not yet been converted to universal use of various cancellations. In the mean time, Toshiba I now cancelled with wavy lines, and with 'Is uw adres niet juist en volledig, licht dan afzender is' (Is your address incorrect and complete, then inform the sender) in 3 lines and 'Doe Amsterdam per toverdoos 700' (Do Amsterdam per magic box 700) in 4 lines, with the small round (Braungardt) postmark. Thanks Oka!*

Subsequently, the flag 'Brieven met geld...' (Letters with money ...) might have been used as well.

Some letters in my collection confirm this: in March and June 1975 Mr. Meijer had sent letters to himself, which - at his request - were machine cancelled with Braungardt Type XVII imprints, which, according to himself, came from the Toshiba I machine. Possibly, this concerns experiments with a new (universal) stamp head in one of the Toshiba machines (Figure 71).

## Up-side down cancels and other issues

Occasionally one can find up-side down imprints. These do not occur at the beginning of the period of use, but in the middle of it. This indicates that the whole postmark die was removed from the stamp head to change the date (Figure 72).

Just as in ordinary canceling machines, during the busy Christmas and New Year period canceling without date characters took place in the Toshiba in Amsterdam (Figure 73).

## Finally a request

More than 1000 scans of Toshiba cancels seems quite a lot, but when you consider that the machines have been running around 1400 days, it means  $\frac{3}{4}$  imprint per day. And that while both machines were equipped with two canceling devices.

Badran's research can use a lot more data, so I would like to call on all of you to send him scans of your Toshiba cancels (300 or 600 dpi resolution would be great) [22].



Figure 71: Three postal items, addressed by Mr. G.H.F. Meijer to himself and at his request cancelled with Braungardt Type XVII machine cancellations. By his own accord originating from the Toshiba I machine.

Top: 'Is uw adres niet juist en volledig, licht dan afzender is' (Is your address incorrect and complete, then inform the sender) of 17 III 75 -16.

Center: 'Doe Amsterdam per toverdoos 700 (Do Amsterdam per magic box 700), of 17 III 75 -16.

Bottom: 'Is uw adres niet correct..... (Is your address not correct ..... ) of 13 VI 75 -16.

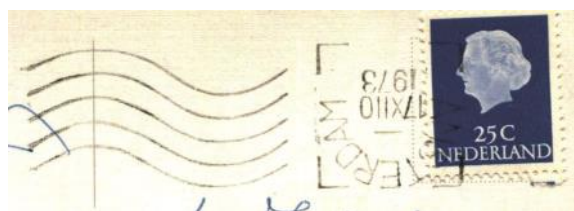


Figure 72: Imprint of an upside down postmark of a Toshiba cancellation, on a fragment of 17 XII 0 1971.

### Intermezzo: the Braungardt cancellation type XVII

Earlier in this article was mentioned that the SEL facer-canceller in Rotterdam was replaced in 1978 by two Toshiba machines. In 1977, the two Amsterdam Toshiba's had been replaced by two NEC machines.

From 1975 onwards new facer-cancellers had been put into operation in the other Expedition Hubs. The first one, in The Hague in 1975, was a machine from NEC (Nippon Electric Company Limited).

Both new NEC and Toshiba facer-cancellers were equipped with a Braungardt cancel type XVII with a small circular postmark with a so-called 'typenrader systeem' (type-wheel system). In such systems, the hour, day, month and year characters are mounted on small rotating wheels on a common axle and can be placed in the desired order.

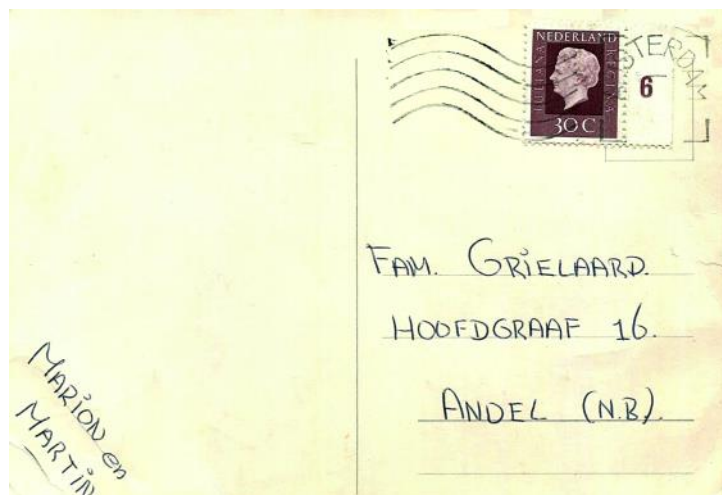


Figure 73: Card with Christmas and New Year greetings (on the reverse side), with a cancellation without date-time characters of one of the Amsterdam Toshiba's.

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In this intermezzo attention is paid to that new cancel type, which has also been used in all kinds of other manual-operated canceling machines. As a result, it is often difficult to distinguish between the imprints from the manual-operated machines and those from the facer-cancelers.

Cancel type XVII (small double ring with date-time indication on one line and five wavy lines) came into operation in 1973 (Figure 74) and is known to collectors as the Braungardt cancel.



Figure 74: Postal item of February 27, 1973 2 p.m., the earliest known date of cancel type XVII, used in a new manual-operated Flier canceling machine in The Hague. All date-time characters are mounted on small adjustable wheels.

The Dutch Monthly Magazine for Philately reports on page 193 of the April 1973 issue:

*At the post office in The Hague a new Flier canceling machine was put into operation on February 27, for the time being on a trial basis, of which an imprint of the cancellation is shown here. This type of machine has operated for more than sixty years in the Netherlands with loose adjustable day, month, year and hour characters. Now, at last, one has switched to attach these characters to small wheels (the same has been done for the Klüssendorf cancelers), so that the time-consuming adjustment of especially the time indication and the risk of losing individual characters is avoided.*

On July 30, 1974 the Braungardt cancel was incorporated in the manual-operated canceler in Leiden (Figure 75) [23]. Around September 1st of the same year this cancel type came also into operation in Amsterdam (Figure 76). Subsequently, the usual type XV dies were replaced by type XVII in the manual-operated Universal canceling machines [24]. Only in the Flier machines type XV remained into operation.

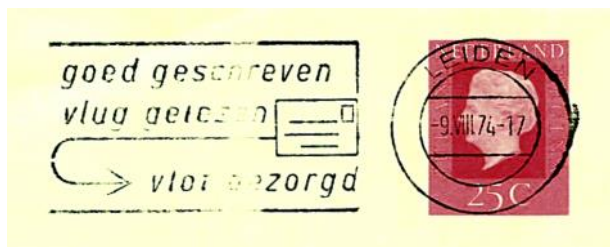


Figure 75: Braungardt machine cancel from Leiden, August 5, 1974.



Figure 76: Braungardt machine cancel from Amsterdam, September 12, 1974.

When the first experiments with the new NEC facer-canceler in The Hague took place in 1974/75, the Braungardt cancel was also used. It is correct that Van der Wart does not include this 'facer cancel' separately in his catalog. In his view, it is not a new type.

In some cases, however, it CAN be established that a type XVII cancel does NOT originate from a facer-canceler. On the one hand because no facer-canceler was present in the smaller post offices where a Universal manual-operated canceler was operating. On the other hand, sometimes the postmark imprints indicate that they originate from a Universal machine, because there is a pointed 'bulge' on the right side of the postmark (Figure 77). This deformation does not occur in the facer-canceler cancels of the Braungardt type. Such a deformation is not always very convincing (Figure 78). Conversely, a 'perfect imprint' does not guarantee that it is a facer-canceler cancel as Universal machines can also produce perfect imprints.



Figure 77: Imprint of a manual-operated Universal canceling machine in Amstelveen, with a clear feature in the cancel: a bulge on the right side of the postmark.



Figure 78: This cancel from Alphen a/d Rijn has a less pronounced bulge, but is nevertheless recognizable as a Universal cancel. Moreover, there was no facer-canceler machine present in Alphen a / d Rijn. .

### ***The new culler-facer-cancelers from NEC and Toshiba***

As already mentioned, in 1974/75 the time had come to switch to a new generation of facer-cancelers; these were deployed in all Expedition Hubs between 1975 and 1984.

The culler was an integral part of these NEC and Toshiba machines. Both Japanese companies referred to them as Culler- Facer- Canceler (CFC). In Dutch: 'Schift- opzetstempelmachine' (abbreviated to 'Sosma'). Figure 79 shows such a NEC culler-facer-canceler.

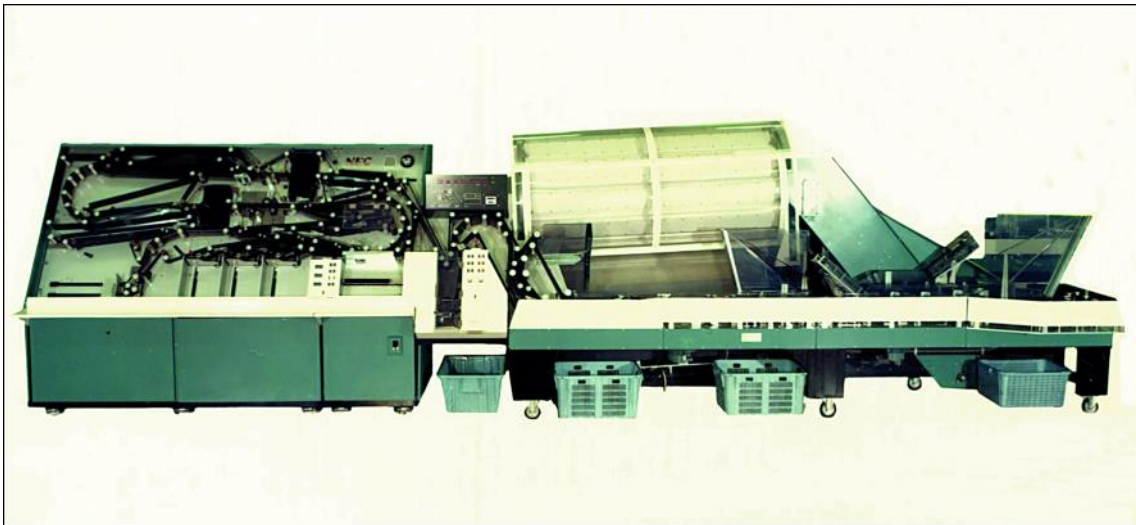


Figure 79: Factory photo of a NEC Culler-Facer-Canceler.

In relation to mail processing, the culler refers to a machine that separates mail items into machine-suitable and machine-unsuitable items. It is a large tilted and rotating drum (Figure 80), in which mail from mailboxes and postal branches is poured from a conveyor belt. The walls of the drum are provided with slots that allow letters with a thickness of 6 mm or less to go through. All mail items that are too thick or too big for the slots are collected at the bottom of the drum and transported to manual processing.



Figure 80: This photo, made by a member of the Study Group during an excursion, gives a glimpse into the inside of the culler. In the background we see the supply belt, delivering the mail items to the drum. The machine-suitable mail disappears through the slots in the wall on a conveyer belt, too thick mail is collected in a bin at the bottom of the drum and sent to manual processing.

The block diagram of Figure 81 shows the operation of the NEC CFC in The Hague.

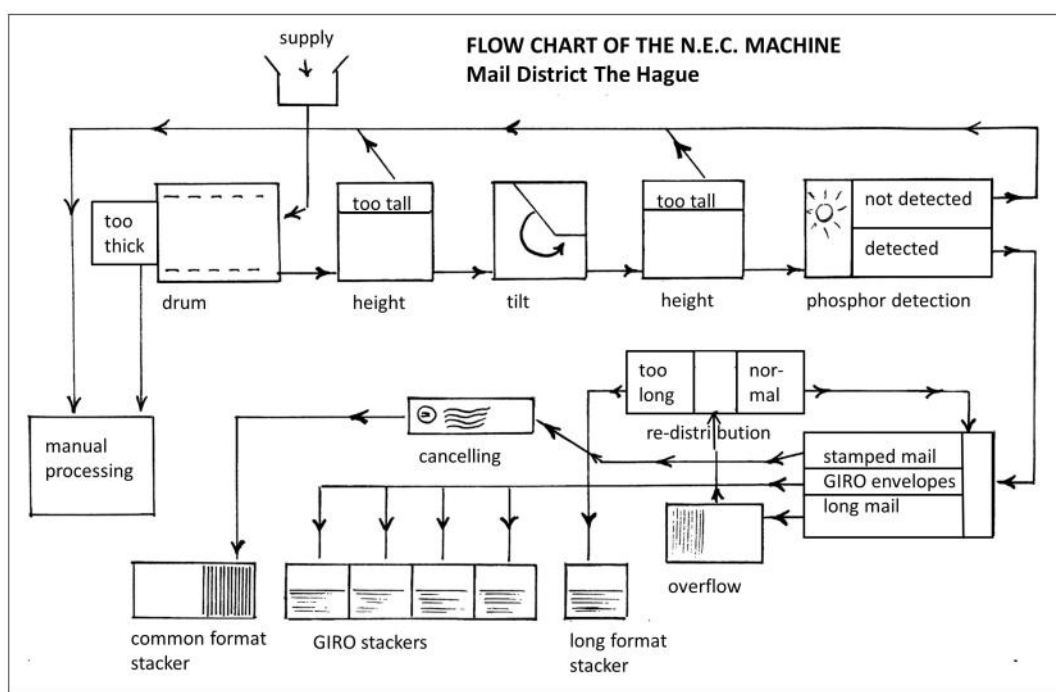


Figure 81: Block diagram of the NEC facer-canceller in The Hague.

*Explanation of figure 81:* At top left is the drum, which is fed by a supply belt and which does not let go through pieces thicker than 6 mm. These fall into a bin for manual processing. The other mail goes via a conveyor belt to the section where they are examined for size. Only the mail not exceeding the maximum size continues on and is then passing the phosphorescence detection unit. Unrecognized items also go to manual processing. The machine-suitable mail with postage stamps are separated from the GIRO envelopes, faced and cancelled and arrive in the 'common format stacker.' The GIRO envelopes arrive in their own stackers. They are not cancelled!

List 1 shows the NEC and Toshiba culler-facer-cancelers in service between 1975 and 1984. The type XVII Braungardt cancel was used in all of these machines. Initially almost exclusively with a wavy line flag, but gradually many flags with 'postal hints' were used. Three of the EKP locations mentioned above with new CFCs qualify for special attention, due to the special characteristics of the cancellations, namely The Hague (1975), Rotterdam (1978) and 's-Hertogenbosch (1983).

EKP The Hague	1975	1 NEC machine	NS-3PB
EKP Zwolle	1976	1 NEC machine	NS-3PB-B
EKP Amsterdam	1977	2 NEC machines	NS-3PB-B
EKP Rotterdam	1978	2 Toshiba machines	TSC-83 D
EKP Groningen	1978	1 NEC machine	NS-3PB-B
EKP Arnhem	1979	2 NEC machines	NS-3PB-B
EKP Haarlem	1979	1 NEC machine	NS-3PB-B
EKP The Hague	1979	1 NEC machine added	NS-3PB-B
EKP 's Hertogenbosch	1979	1 NEC machine	NS-3PB-B
EKP Zwolle	1980	1 NEC machine added	NS-3PB-C
EKP Roosendaal	1980	1 Toshiba machine	TSC-85 or TSC-83 D
EKP Utrecht	1981	1 Toshiba machine	TSC-85 computer controlled
EKP Amsterdam	1981	1 NEC machine	NS-3PB-C
EKP Leeuwarden	1981	1 NEC machine	NS-3PB-C
EKP 's-Hertogenbosch	1982	1 NEC machine	NS-3PB-C
EKP Sittard	1982	1 NEC machine	NS-3PB-D computer controlled
EKP Utrecht	1984	1 Toshiba machine	TSC-85

EKP = Expeditieknooppunt (Expedition Hub)

### *The first new NEC Culler-Facer-Canceler in The Hague*

The first NEC Culler-Facer-Canceler was put into operation in The Hague in 1975. The type XVII Braungardt cancel had already been used there in 1973 in a manual-operated Flier machine. Braungardt cancels with a wavy line flag do not appear on Dutch mail from The Hague in 1974, only on NEC test mail (Figure 82). In 1974 the NEC machine was tested in Japan before it was put into operation in The Hague. For these tests a number of postcards and postage stamps pre-cancelled with the text 'Ongeldig' ('Invalid') were provided by the Directie Zegelwaarden (Stamp Values Department) in Haarlem (Figures 83 and 84).



Figure 82: Postcard Juliana Regina, 30 cents with a phosphorescent bar over the stamp image (Geuzendam 349). The stamp image was pre-cancelled with 'Ongeldig' ('Invalid') in purple-blue. The card was canceled in Japan on 12 X 74 -16 with a wavy line Braungardt cancel type XVII.



Figure 83: Set of three Juliana Regina 40 cent (NVPH 943) stamps, originating from a sheet which was pre-cancelled with a blue stamp 'ONGELDIG' ('INVALID').



Figure 84: Fragment of a 'Japanese' test letter (12 X 74 -16) with such a pre-cancelled 40 cent Juliana Regina stamp.

In February 1975, the NEC CFC was tested on location in The Hague. For these tests postal stationery and stamps with pre-cancel 'Ongeldig' were used again (Figure 85).



Figure 85: 'Ongeldig' ('Invalid') pre-cancelled airmail letter 50 cent 'Juliana in profile' with a phosphorescent bar left of the stamp image (Geuzendam Lp 23). Cancelled in the NEC facer-canceller in The Hague on February 2, 1975.

## Notes

18. G.H.F. Meijer, Postmechanisatie op dreef in Amsterdam, in: N.M.P. October 1971, page 446.
19. A publication is being prepared for De Postzak about all variants of the Amsterdam Toshiba cancels.
20. Data from the collection of Jos Stroom, and from G.H.F. Meijer in: Mijn Stokpaardje, issue 8, November 1971, pages 333-334.
21. G.H.F. Meijer in: Mijn Stokpaardje, issue 6, 1975, page. 248. Also mentioned in UV, issue 28, December 1974, page 97 and UV issue 31, December 1975, page 113.
22. Mail address for notifications to Victor Badran: [postzegel@badran.ch](mailto:postzegel@badran.ch)
23. Ned. Maandblad voor Philatelie, 1974, page 480b.
24. Ned. Maandblad voor Philatelie, 1974, page 549.

## New Members

We welcome two new members. Erik Hammega from Marana in Arizona, and Dale Graham from Houston, Texas. Erik collects Netherlands and its (former) territories, FDCs, Indonesia and Suriname. Dale collects Netherlands and its (former) territories and Indonesia and Suriname as well, plus UNTEA.

## Haarlem 2 'Martin' postmark on 'Church mail' with free franking; September 1906 .

*by Hans Kremer*

Seldom one sees a sharper postmark then the one shown in Figure 1. It is a so-called 'Martin' postmark on a letter sent (postage free) from Haarlem to Langendijk (N.H) in 1906.

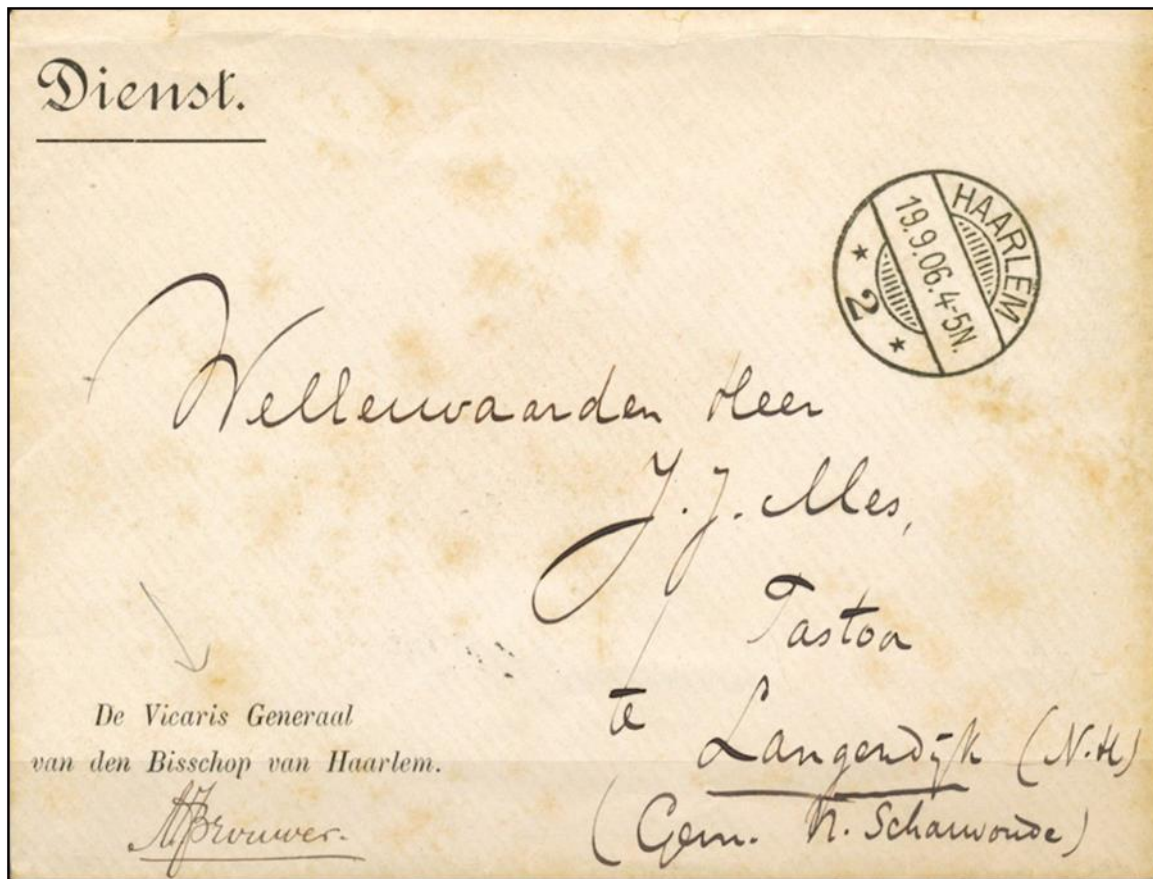


Figure 1: Haarlem 2 'Martin' Postmark; Sept. 19, 1906.

**Martin postmarks:** These 'typenrader' (type wheel) postmarks were made by Martin Bros. of Berlin and supplied during June to August 1906. The postmarks all had the semicircular segments shaded. A total of 58 of these postmarks were distributed over ten post offices. The breakdown was as follows (the number in front of the office name is the diameter in millimeters):

- 27 Amsterdam (1-10)
- 27 Dordrecht (1-4)
- 29 's Gravenhage (1-10)
- 27 Groningen (1-4)
- 26 Haarlem (1-4)
- 28 Leeuwarden (1-4)
- 25 Leiden (1-4)
- 26 Nymegen (1-4)
- 27 Rotterdam (1-10)
- 25 Zwolle (1-4)

During March, April and May 1907 the shading in the segments were removed at the Mint in the Netherlands. The now unshaded postmarks continued in use.

The earliest known date of the Haarlem 2 Martin cancel is August 20, 1906, while the last known date, before the shading was cut, was April 8, 1907.

The letter (with the handwritten note “Dienst”) was sent from the Haarlem Bishopric to the Priest of the Catholic church in Langendijk, a small town about 25 miles North of Haarlem. Dienst (‘Public Service’) refers to a classification of mail that qualified for free franking .

**Free mailing privileges of churches:** As of January 1, 1994 all church mail had to be franked normally. This was the end of a regulation that, starting January 1, 1894, had given churches the special right of postage free mailing. For the detailed history of free franking for church mail click on [http://asn1975.com/back issues/ASN1975.Vol.22.1.pdf](http://asn1975.com/back%20issues/ASN1975.Vol.22.1.pdf) .

## References

- P. Rozema, F. Simons, J. Vos, Gearceerde Typenraderstempels / Geen gearceerde streepjes graag!, Philatelistenclub “Rotterdam” 100 jaar, 2005  
C. Janssen, Langebalkstempels, Ned. Academie voor Filatelie  
J. Vroomen, The history of the postage free mailing privileges of churches, Netherlands Philately, 22: 22-24, 1997 (see <http://asn1975.com/back%20issues/ASN1975.Vol.22.1.pdf>).

## Recent Issues



### Day of the Postage Stamp

October 16, 2020

The sheet with 10 stamps, in two designs, commemorates the Numeral stamps from 1876. The stamps depict the graphic elements of the 1876 Numeral stamps in a different orientation. The value indicator ‘1’ from one of the designs has been rotated 180 degrees with regard to the ‘1’ from the other design.

The stamps were designed by Sandra Smuders from Gouda.

**Martin Garrix**  
October 21, 2020

The sheet of five identical stamps depicts the silhouette of the world-known Dutch dj and music producer Martin Garrix (son of Gerard Garritsen, previous owner-director of Corinphila). The sheet has an augmented reality (AR) layer. When the stamps are scanned with an app, specifically created for this issue, an AR-application starts presenting a performance by Martin Garrix.

Boris Lammertse, graphic designer at STMPD RCRDS was the designer of the stamps.



**Mourning Stamp**  
November 2, 2020



A special stamp for mourning mail was designed with a value 2 for heavier mourning letters. The stamps have a neutral and sedate design, leaving the attention to the mourning card. The stamp is recognizable by the mail carrier and recipient of the mourning card.

With this issue, the postal service fulfilled a request by the funeral business, which had observed that more luxurious and thus heavier mourning cards are being mailed which require additional postage when addressed to domestic destinations.

**December Stamp**  
November 16, 2020



The sheet contains 20 stamps, in ten designs, with the special (reduced) December tariff for destinations within the Netherlands. This reduced tariff applies only between November 16, 2020 and January 6, 2021.

The stamps present Christmas tree ornaments of a whimsical and contemporary nature, designed by Vondels, a purveyor of such ornaments in Amsterdam.

See also <https://www.postzegelblog.nl/>

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