

Dated Journal

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Netherlands Philately

Magazine of the American Society for Netherlands Philately

Volume 46/2



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NETHERLANDS PHILATELY

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Editor's Message

November, 2021

Dear Fellow Collectors,

This issue arrives in your (e-)mail box a little bit later than usual because of my travel in the month of October to St. Louis and the Netherlands. This left me with just a few days to put this issue together. Fortunately, I had sufficient material on hand to fill the magazine. However, I fear the day that the translation of 'In de ban van UV-licht, merktekens en codestrepjes,' (the book issued upon the 50-year jubilee of the Post Mechanization Group of Po & Po) is completed. To prepare for that day I once again call for contributions by our members. Just start with the most interesting stamp or cover in your collection and write down why it is special. E-mail the text to me with a scan of the item and we can keep filling the magazine.

While in the Netherlands, I visited Postex, a bourse and philatelic exhibit, in Apeldoorn, where I was able to visit with dealers and collectors I had not seen in two years. The show was well-attended on the afternoon I was there, and I managed to purchase some items for my collection of non-deliverable mail. Even my (non-collecting) wife enjoyed the show.

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.

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Dutch Coding- and Sorting Systems and their Effect on Mail Items. Part 4.

by Eddie IJspeerd

PROJECT 'DE NIEUWE WEG VAN DE BRIEF'

In May 2011 PostNL started the project 'De nieuwe weg van de brief' (The new path of the letter). The aim was to simplify the logistic process from sorting center to delivery. Therefore, the pre-sorting centers had to be combined into nine 'Centrale Voorbereidingslocaties' (CVLs) (central pre-sorting locations). The CVLs were planned for Amsterdam, 's-Hertogenbosch, Utrecht (with annex in Nieuwegein), Rotterdam, Roosendaal, Bleiswijk, Assen, Deventer and Heerenveen.

By the time CVL Utrecht, annex Nieuwegein and CVL 's-Hertogenbosch were completed in 2013, the project was halted because of the major logistical problems that arose from this reorganization.

However, the short CVL period in 2013 has led to a new PRIC variant which, due to its relative rarity, is discussed here in more detail. On mail items with destination CVL Utrecht, its annex Nieuwegein and CVL 's-Hertogenbosch, an alpha-numerical CVL section has been added to the then current PRICs, recognizable by the location initials U, N and H (Figure 76).

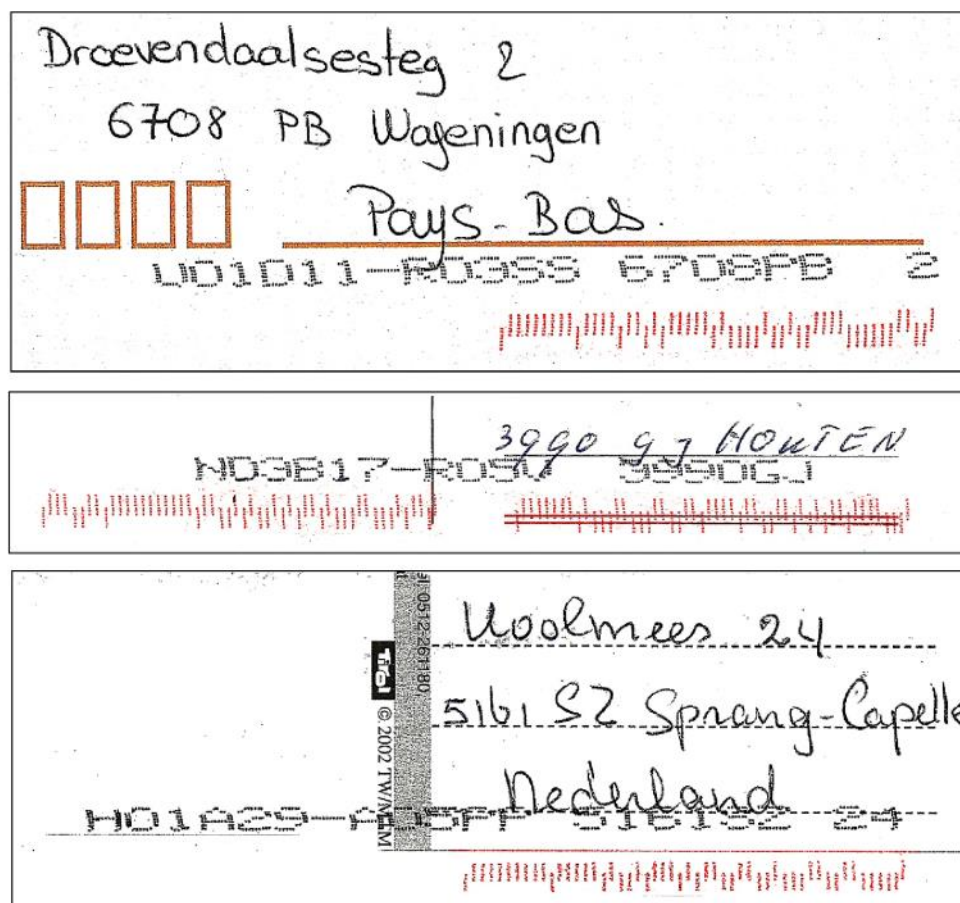


Figure 76: Process information codes with a 'Centrale Voorbereidingslocatie' (CVL) (central pre-sorting location) section. Processing took place in Utrecht (letter U), its annex Nieuwegein (letter N) or 's-Hertogenbosch (letter H), respectively.

The meaning of the special CVL section (using H01A29 as an example) is:

H = mail item intended for CVL 's-Hertogenbosch

01 = for processing in CVL unit 01

A29 = for processing in bin A29

PostNL decided to a less drastic reorganization of the logistic chain and to set up 30 'Vorbereidingslocaties' (VBLs) (pre-sorting locations). In this new structure, the process information code is preceded by an 'Instraateenheid' (IE) (delivery area indication).

Several IE variants can be found in a PRIC. Figure 77 shows three examples. Because of the many variants, it is plausible that one was allowed at the VBL level to decide which IE one wanted to merge to the PRIC.

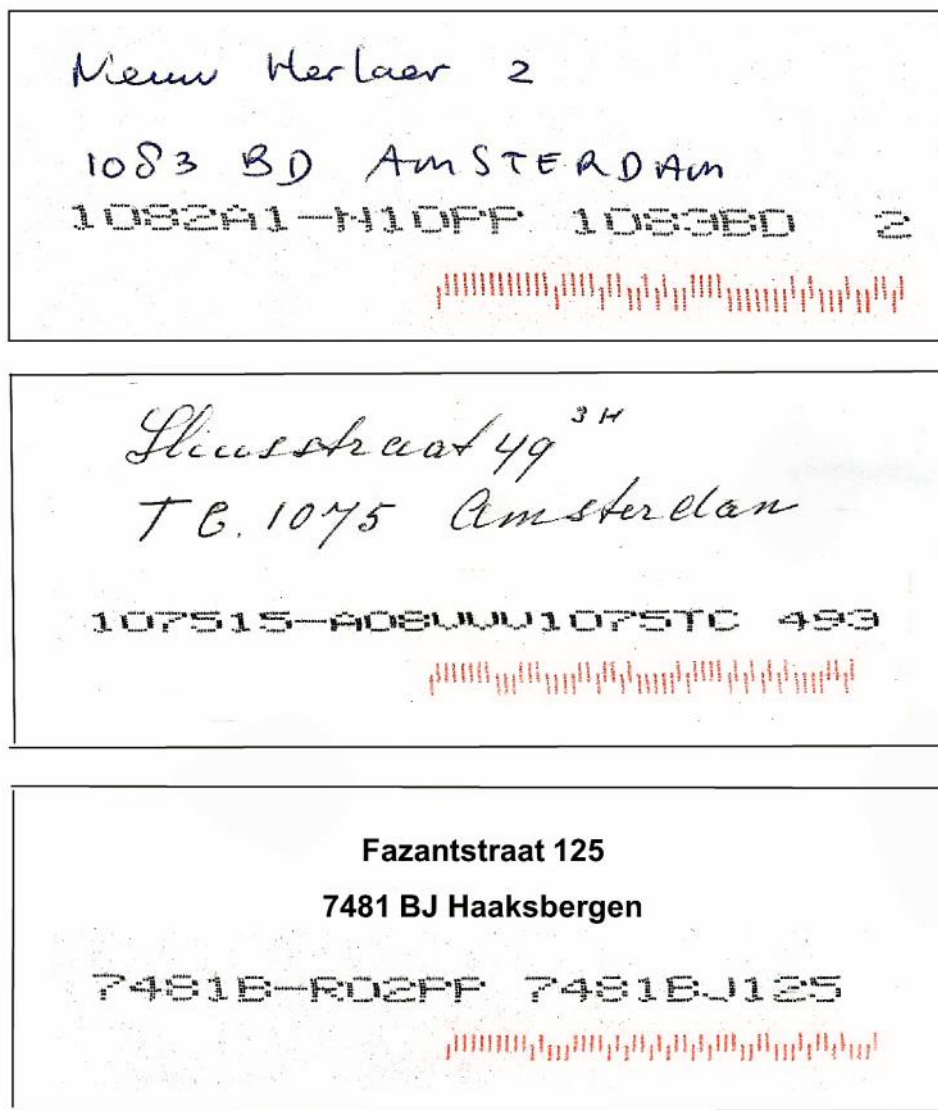


Figure 77: Process information codes preceded by an 'Instraateenheid' (delivery area indication).

More about the different PRIC types later. First a brief look at a new Dutch postal phenomenon: the 'Sorteerregel' (sorting line).

Sorting line

For some time in the summer of 2013, print lines appeared on mail items to and from Rotterdam that deviated completely from what was customary at that time. Was it a new type of process information code? It turns out that they were (probably) applied during tests with a new sorting system. (Figure 78). The meaning of the different parts of these print lines are still unknown to us.

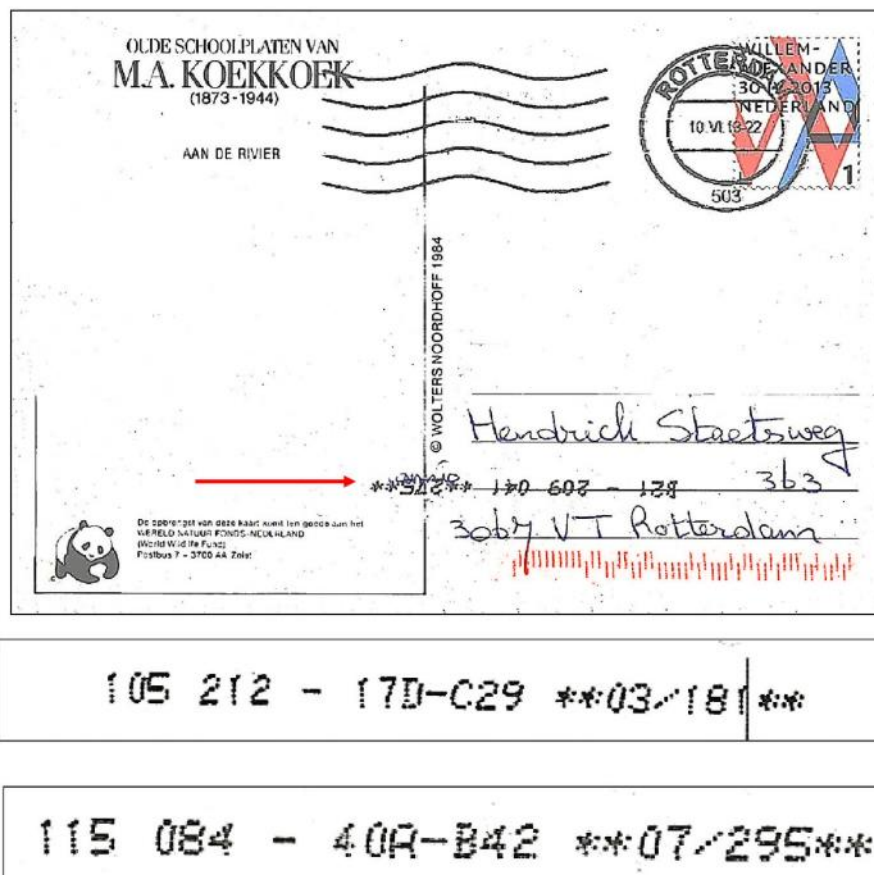


Figure 78: Sorting lines applied in Rotterdam during tests in the summer of 2013.

In the years that followed, nothing special happened. But early 2018 it became known that PostNL had abandoned sorting based on the postal code. With that system, every postal code was part of a specific delivery area. Regardless whether the addresses were close or far away from each other, they were all included in the same delivery area.

In the new system based on the 'Sorteerregel' (sorting line), it is possible to transfer addresses from one delivery round to another. For example, a distant address in a bicycle delivery round then ends up in a car delivery round which saves time. Mail carriers can submit their own wishes. These are centrally reviewed for their suitability by route planners in The Hague. A complete new PRIC type, which includes a sorting line, was introduced and applied on mail items.

Such a sorting line may look as shown in Figure 79.

#1252A6A#07#0824#

1252A6 = delivery area indication
1252 = pre-sorting area number
A6 = serial number of the delivery area indication
A = 1st delivery round (max. 3: A-B-C)
07 = bin number (for sorting by street and house number)
08 = delivery bundle number (here: 8th bundle)
24 = delivery point (house-, PO box-, business reply number)

Figure 79: The structure of a sorting line.

A delivery area indication can include 1 to 3 delivery rounds, based on postal code sub-areas (Figure 80).



Figure 80: A display board above a sorting cabinet showing delivery area indications. For example: 1323F5 with the associated delivery rounds 8495H and 8494P (postal code sub-areas).

PRIC adjustment due to the sorting line

Mechanically, the SMKs are still fully deployable around 2018. However, regular software updates are necessary to keep the sorting technology up-to-date. For example, the process information code had to be adapted to the new sorting line. First, the postal code-based PRIC was partially adjusted. The postal code-house number-house number addition recognition result part disappeared from the PRIC and was replaced by a partial sorting line with only the local delivery information (Figures 81 and 82).

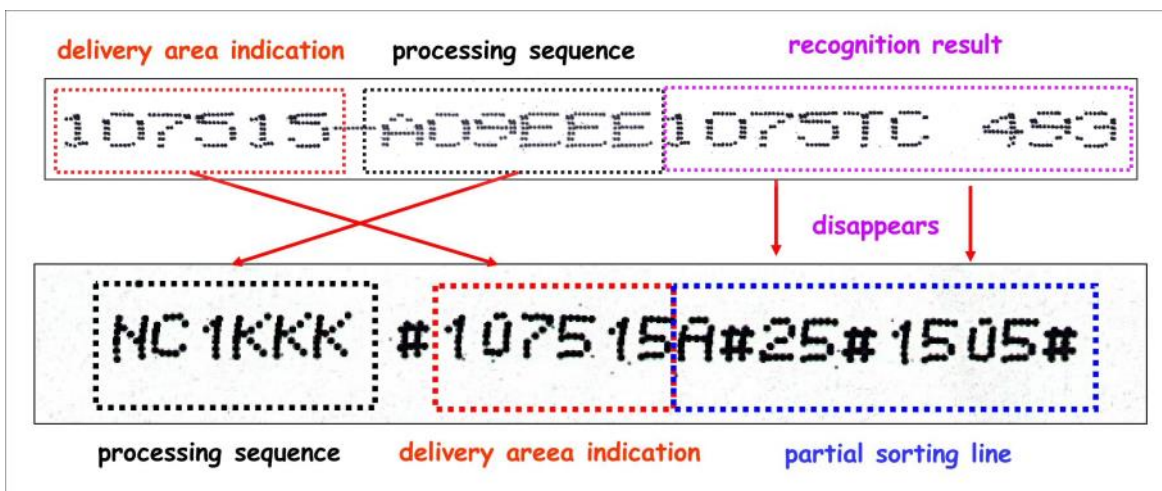


Figure 81: Example of the transition from a postal code based PRIC to the corresponding mixed postal code/partial sorting line PRIC as a prelude to the full sorting line PRIC. In such a transitional PRIC a postal code part is always present. In this example the four postal code numerals 1075.

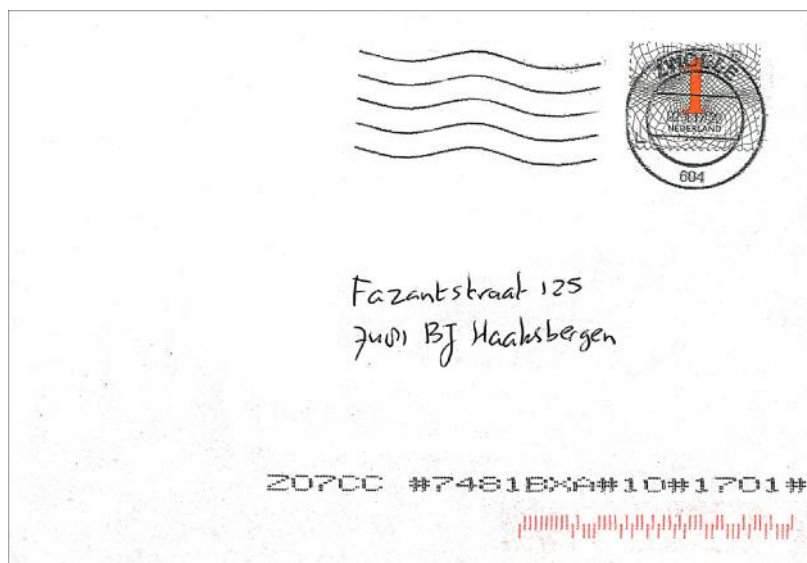


Figure 82: Mail item with a mixed postal code/partial sorting line PRIC. In this transitional PRIC postal code part 7481B is present.

After a short transitional period, a PRIC based on the full sorting line was applied to mail items (Figure 83).

In the course of 2018 the PRIC inkjet printers in the SMK's are replaced by the same inkjet printer type as used in the new SMX and SMC (see the next chapters). This results in a smaller PRIC font (Figure 84). This PRIC font is in use as of today (= mid 2019).

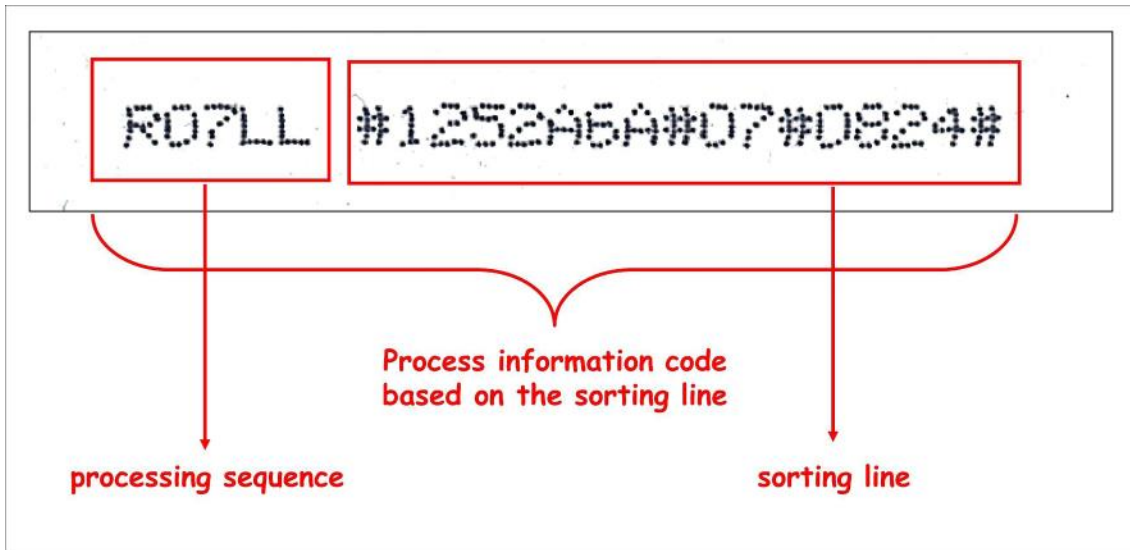


Figure 83: Structure of a PRIC with a processing sequence part and a full sorting line part.



Figure 84: Transition of a full sorting line PRIC from large to small font.

Sorting machine for mixed mail

Increasingly, problems also occurred at the SMGs due to malfunctions and a shortage of spare parts. Therefore, the decision was made to purchase eleven new machines that could handle both small and large mail items, the 'Sorteermachine-eXtra' (SMX) (sorting machine for mixed mail), an example of which is shown in Figure 85. This machine can also process mail items sealed in plastic.



Figure 85: A 'Sorteermachine-eXtra' (SMX) (sorting machine for mixed mail).

An SMX always prints an identification index (IX-SMX) in the AB-code format on the mail items. No sorting index (SIX) is applied. As with the old SMGs, the digital recognition result is electronically sent to the sorting center of destination, together with the IX-SMX data. When the mail item passes a SMX in the destination sorting center, the IX-SMX is read and the corresponding recognition result is retrieved from a digital buffer, after which the mail item is deposited in the correct container.

The IX-SMX is placed in a different position on mail items than the IX-SMK (Figure 86). Also the color intensity and size of the inkjet bars are slightly different. However, each code bar of an IX-SMX also consists of seven inkjet dots.

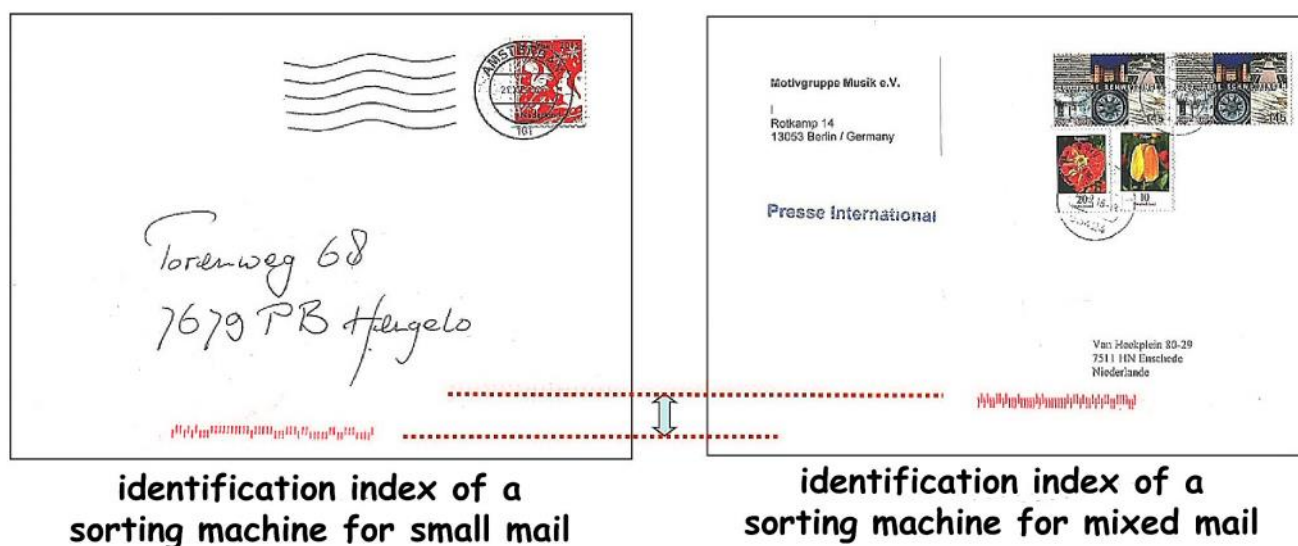


Figure 86: The position of an IX-SMX on a mail item differs from that of an IX-SMK.

After the introduction of the new sorting line, the SMX also applies an alpha-numerical inkjet print line on the mail items. This initially concerns the mixed postal code/partial sorting line PRIC. Later the full sorting line PRIC was applied. From the start both PRIC-SMX types are applied in the small font.

A PRIC-SMX can be recognized by the letter "X" after the sorting center initial. The number after the "X" indicates the SMX machine number (Figure 87).

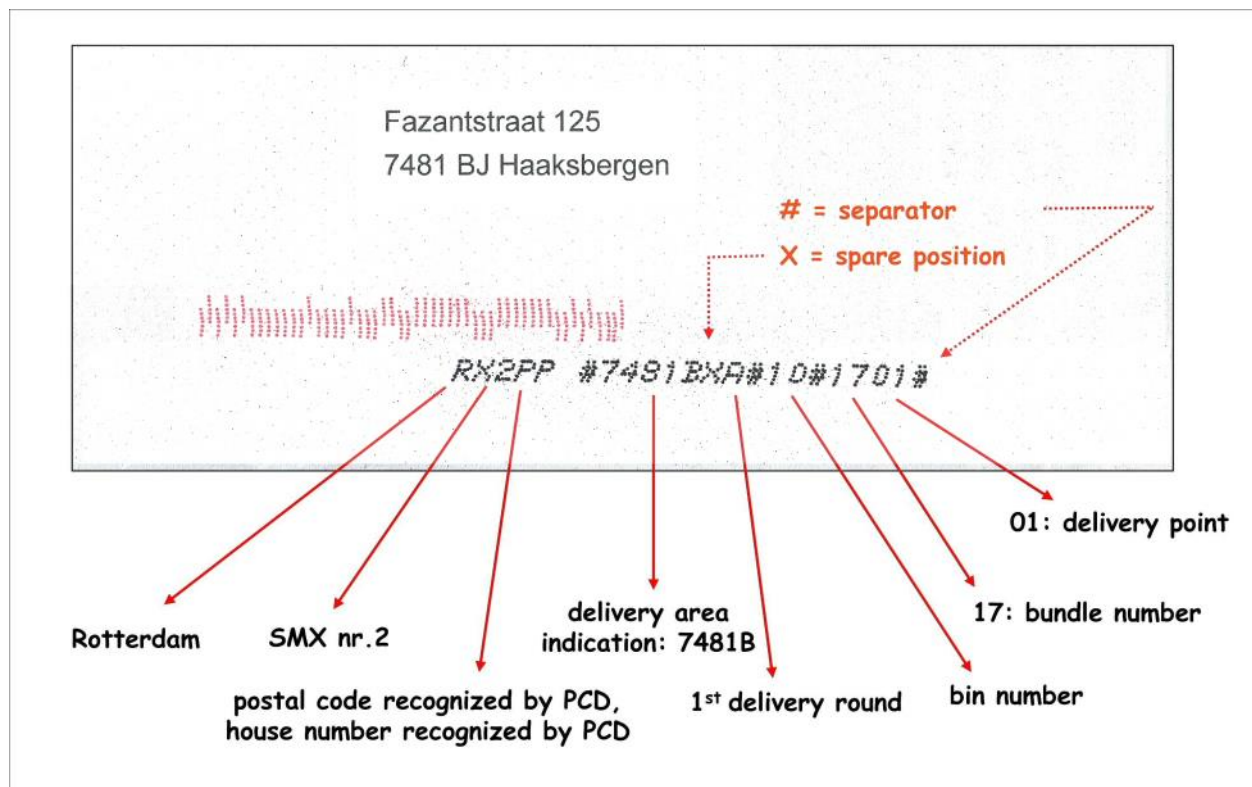


Figure 87: Explanation of the mixed postal code/partial sorting line PRIC applied by sorting machine for mixed mail number 2 in Sorting Center Rotterdam.

Sorting machine for the remaining mail

The SMO is successively replaced by the 'Sortermachine-Coderen' (SMC) (sorting machine for the remaining mail). With these machines it is no longer necessary for an operator to enter the postal code manually. Instead, the mail items are placed by hand on a conveyor belt with the addresses facing up. Then they pass a reading station where a digital image of each item is made (Figure 88).

The software packages then go to work to recognize postal code, house number and house number addition. The recognition result is again send electronically to the sorting center of destination. No sorting index is applied to SMC mail items. No identification index is applied either. Only a process information code (PRIC-SMC) is applied.

How SMC mail is exactly processed at the destination sorting centers is still unclear to us. Perhaps they are sorted again after renewed address recognition.

As with the SMX, first the mixed postal code/partial sorting line PRIC format was used. Then a switch was made weto the full sorting line PRIC. From the start, both PRIC-SMC types are printed in the small font.

A PRIC-SMC can be recognized by the letter "C" after the sorting center initial. The number after the letter "C" indicates the SMC machine number (Figure 89). The meaning of the different parts of the PRIC-SMC is identical to that shown in Figure 87.



Figure 88: A sorting machine for the remaining mail with on the left side the conveyor belt on which the mail items are placed manually with the address side up. In the middle the sorting section.

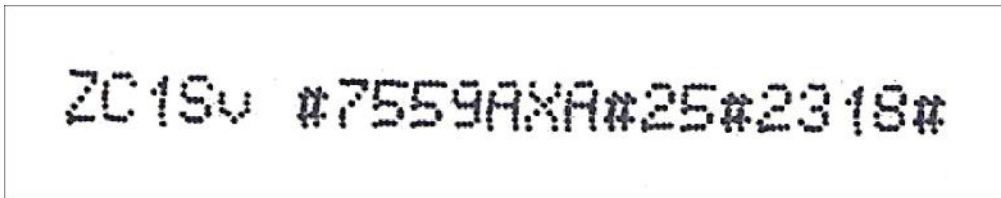


Figure 89: Mixed postal code/partial sorting line PRIC applied by sorting machine for the remaining mail number 1 in Sorting Center Zwolle. The postal code part is 7559A.

In the case of strongly colored paper or an irregular shape of the mail item, a label is applied on which the PRIC-SMC is printed (Figure 90).

PRIC OVERVIEW PER SORTING MACHINE

Figures 91 and 92 show a comparative overview per sorting machine of the ongoing PRIC types. Figure 91 shows the mixed postal code/partial sorting line PRIC types applied by the SMK, the SMX and the SMC.

Figure 92 shows the full sorting line PRIC types of the three machines. Note that these PRICs are all printed in the small font!



Figure 90: Mail item with a full sorting line PRIC applied by SMC number 3 in Sorting Center Zwolle. The PRIC has been applied to a white label. This PRIC type does not contain a postal code part.

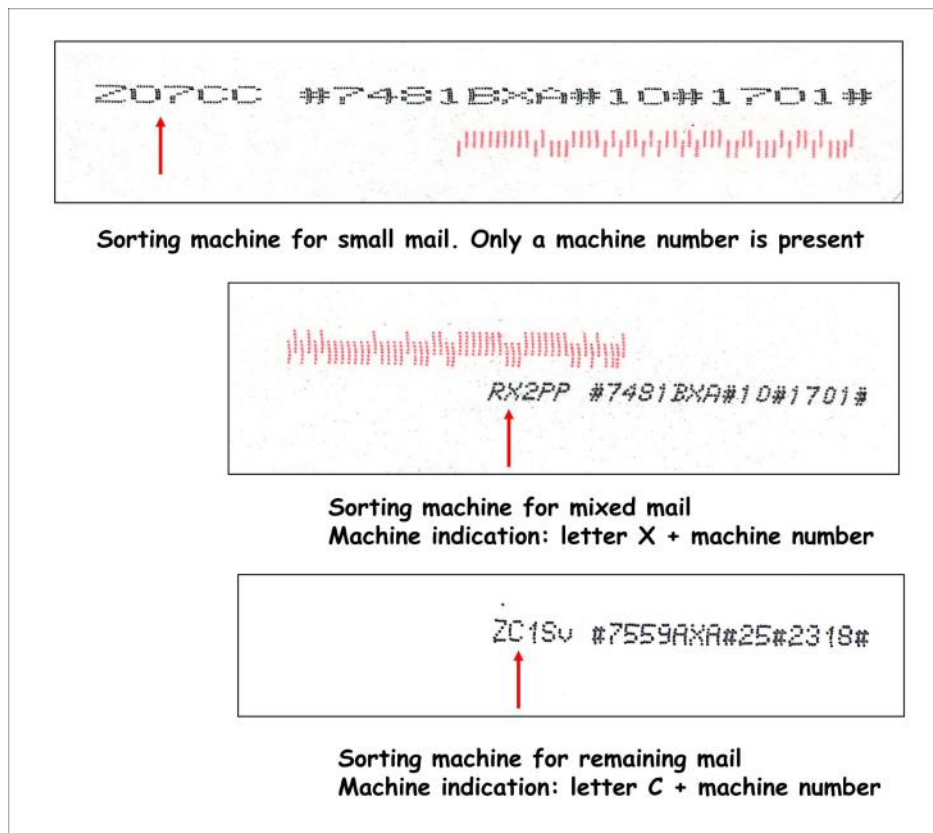


Figure 91: Mixed postal code/partial sorting line PRICs per sorting machine. The PRIC-SMK is printed in a large font, the PRIC-SMX and the PRIC-SMC in a small font.

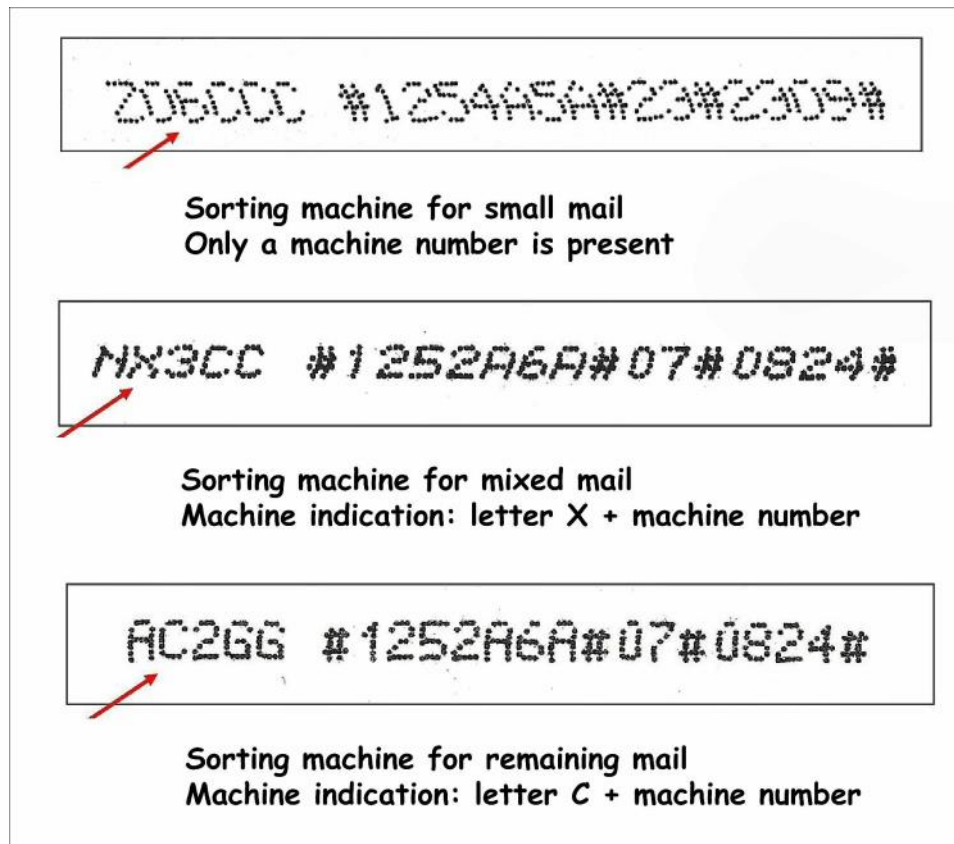


Figure 91: Mixed postal code/partial sorting line PRICs per sorting machine. The PRIC-SMK is printed in a large font, the PRIC-SMX and the PRIC-SMC in a small font.

NOTHING IS PERMANENT, EXCEPT CHANGE

These laudable words of the Greek philosopher Heraclitus (ca. 540 B.C. - 480 B.C.) are a good reflection of what the philatelist concerned with the technical aspects of mail handling has experienced in the past decades. In the course of those years, mail processing has become highly automated. But still manual labor can't be completely missed in this process. And as with any automated process, always a certain percentage of errors occur. And therein lies the challenge for the specialized collector: keep inspecting the daily mail sharply for mail processing errors. And of course pay attention to new postal markings. They produce collectable mail items that a few years later are already part of postal history.

May this article be a starting point for the reader to become interested in this aspect of modern philately. The costs are almost nil, because the trash can is one of the treasuries of the specialized collector. Where else can you find such a hobby nowadays?

[This is the fourth and final part of the second chapter of 'In de ban van UV-licht, merktekens en codestreepjes.' Future issues of Netherlands Philately will have subsequent part(s) of this and other chapters of this book issued upon the 50-year jubilee of the Post Mechanization Group of Po & Po.)]

Toying with the five-cent Juliana “en face.” *It does not always have to be caviar.*

by Adam van der Linden

Introduction

Sometimes you get an idea when you are working on your collection with some intensity. In this case the usage of the Queen Juliana “en face.” At first glance, the lowest value, the five cents, offers few opportunities to show something interesting. When issued in 1949 there was only one real application, namely the franking of a domestic postcard. Starting July 1, 1953 the five-cent “en face” can also be used for printed matter to destinations abroad. However, the Queen Juliana “en profil” was already introduced on 6 September 1953. Yet, there are several interesting possibilities beyond the primary reason the five cent “en face” was issued, although some of these are pushing the border.

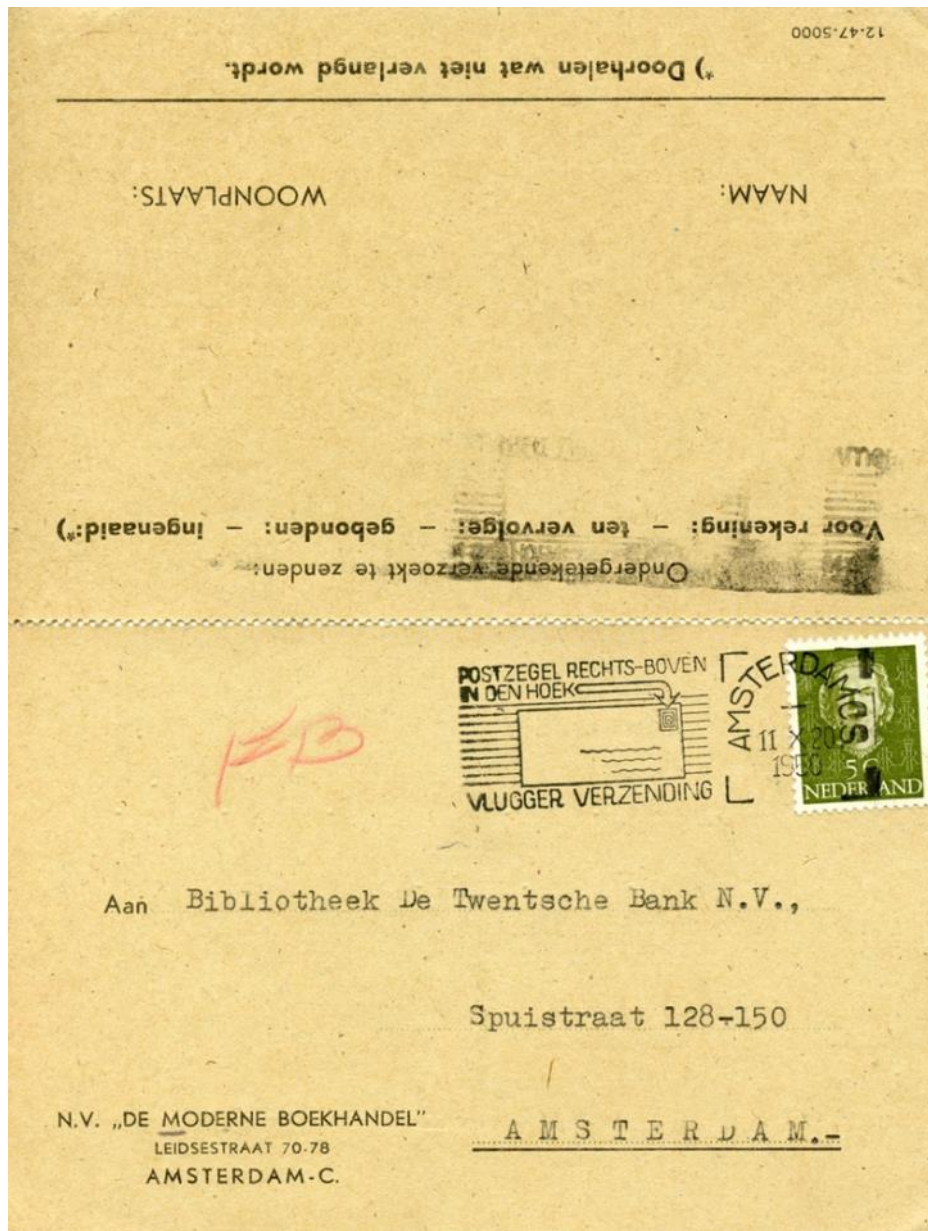


Figure 1: Amsterdam C.S., October 11, 1950. Private postcard with reply part mailed within Amsterdam. Rate structure: local postcard, five cents from 11/1/1946-7/1/1953. The reply card has not been used.

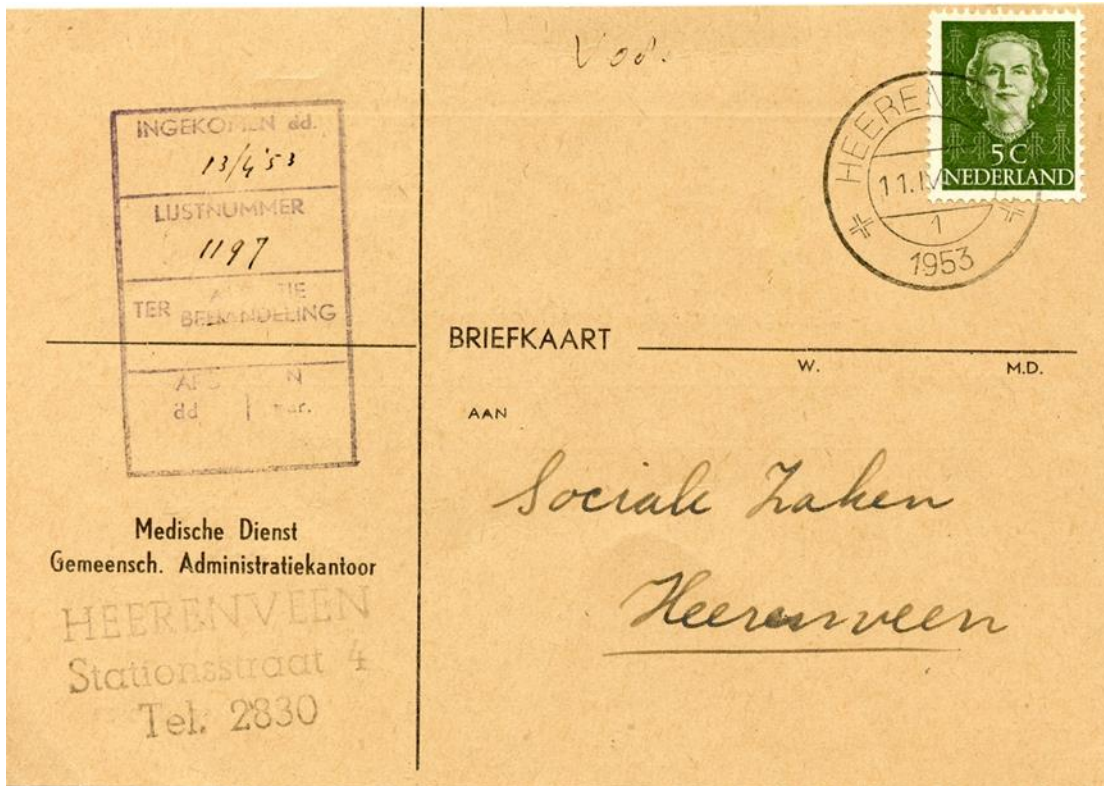


Figure 2: Heerenveen, April 11, 1953. Service postcard, no freedom of port, mailed within Heerenveen. Rate structure: local postcard, five cents from 11/1/1946-7/1/1953.

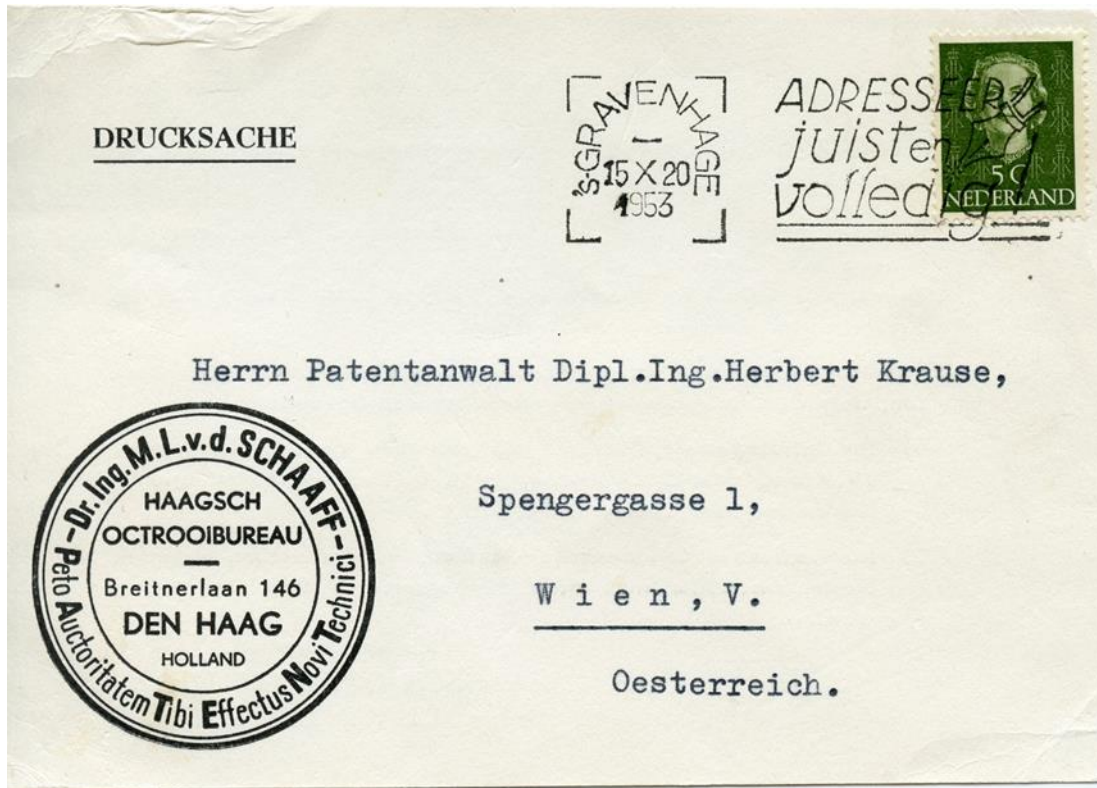


Figure 3: The Hague, October 15, 1953. Printed matter destined for Vienna, Austria. Rate structure: postcard abroad, five cents from 7/1/1953-4/1/1957.



Figure 4: Bergen op Zoom, October 12, 1953. Printed matter cover destined for Battersea, London, England. Rate structure: Printed matter cover abroad till 50 grams, five cents from 7/1/1953-4/1/1957. The Battersea post office deemed the stamp insufficiently devalued and applied a wavy flag cancel with a Battersea post mark. This was not conform the rules as a 'blind' cancel should have been used, without place name and date.



Figure 5: The Hague-van Alkemadelaan, March, 13 1951. Service cover mailed charge-on-delivery with destination Beverwijk. Rate structure: freedom of port (10 cent), registration (required for COD mail 15 cent but waived for service letters), COD charge five cents for an amount between f. 1,- and f. 5,- from 4/1/1936 till 4/1/1957.



Figure 6: The Hague, December 16, 1949. Service cover mailed charge-on-delivery with destination Amsterdam. Rate structure: freedom of port (10 cent), registration (required for COD mail 15 cent but waived for service letters), COD charge five cents for an amount between f. 1,-- and f. 5,-- from 4/1/1936 till 4/1/1957.



Figure 7: The Hague, October 3, 1950. Printed matter cover by air to Basel, Switzerland. Rate structure: printed matter till 50 grams 4 cents from 11/1/1946 till 7/1/1953. Air mail dues for other rates 5 cents per 50 grams. It appears, that after having placed the machine cancel, one realized that the printed matter was in an airmail over, and an additional five cent was attached.



Figure 8: Oude Wetering, June 3, 1950. Picture Postcard with a photograph of the Royal Family to Voorschoten. Rate structure: 6 cents from 2/1/1948 till 7/1/1953. Franked with 5 cents resulting in a one cent shortage. Amount due was doubled and rounded up to the minimum 5 cents. Paid for with a 5 cents postage due stamp.



Figure 9: Rotterdam, 3 juli 1950. Picture postcard to Hilversum. Rate structure: 6 cents from 2/1/1948 till 7/1/1953. Franked with 5 cents resulting in a one cent shortage. Amount due was doubled and rounded up to the minimum 5 cents. In contrast to the one shown in Figure 8, the card was offered in port-service cover to prevent 'peeking.'

Figure 10: Balkbrug, February 16, 1951. Business letter from Woudsend Verzekeringen (Insurance company), now ASR, to Hoogezand. Rate structure: 10 cents for domestic letter till 20 grams from 11/1/1946 till 11/1/1957.

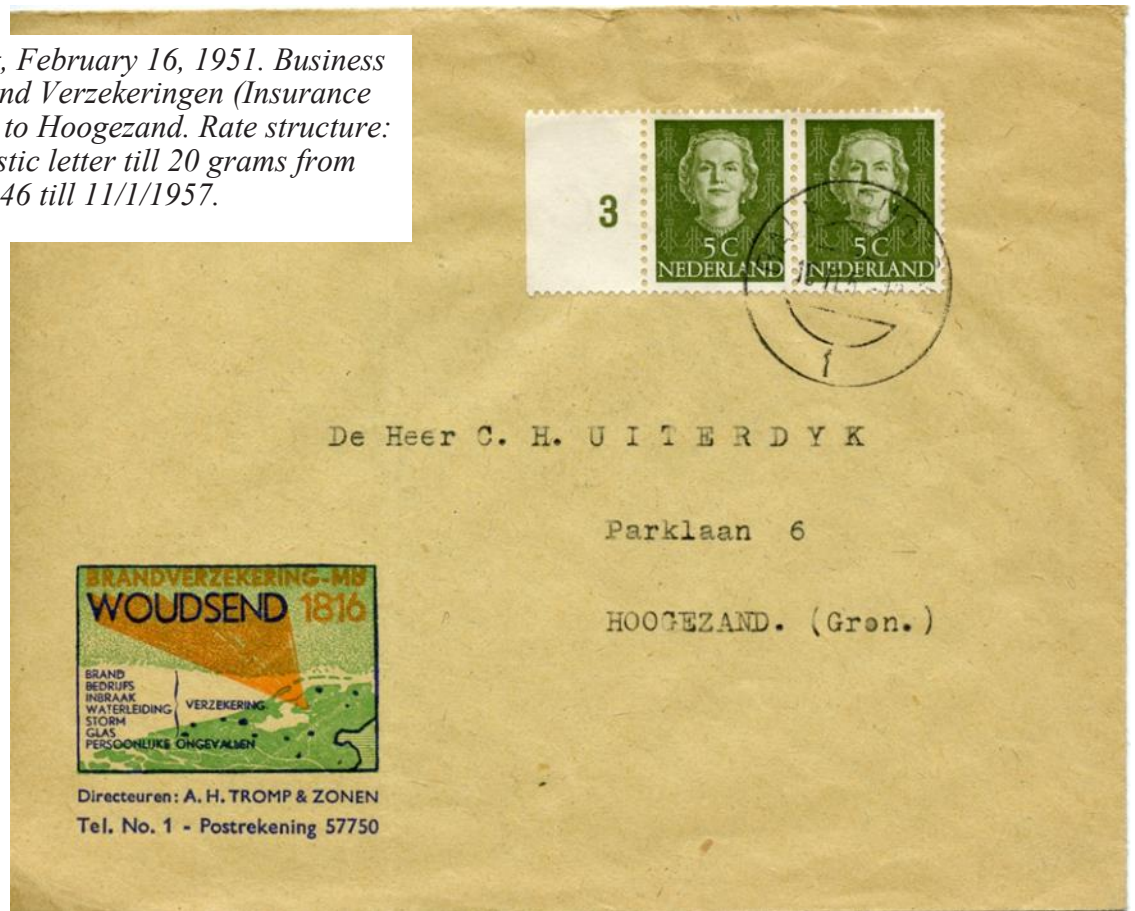


Figure 11: Terborg, May 15, 1950. Letter to Utrecht mailed on the train line Arnhem-Amsterdam. Rate structure: 15 cents for letter second weight category 21-100 grams from 11/1/1946 till 11/1/1957.



Figure 12: Hillegom, January 19, 1951. Letter to Paris, France. Rate structure: 20 cents for letter till 20 grams, from 11/1/1946 till 7/1/1953. No airmail surcharge within Europa.

Figure 13: Hilversum, September 5, 1953. Letter to Nürnberg, (West) Germany). Rate structure: 25 cents for letter till 20 grams from 7/1/1953 till 4/1/1957.

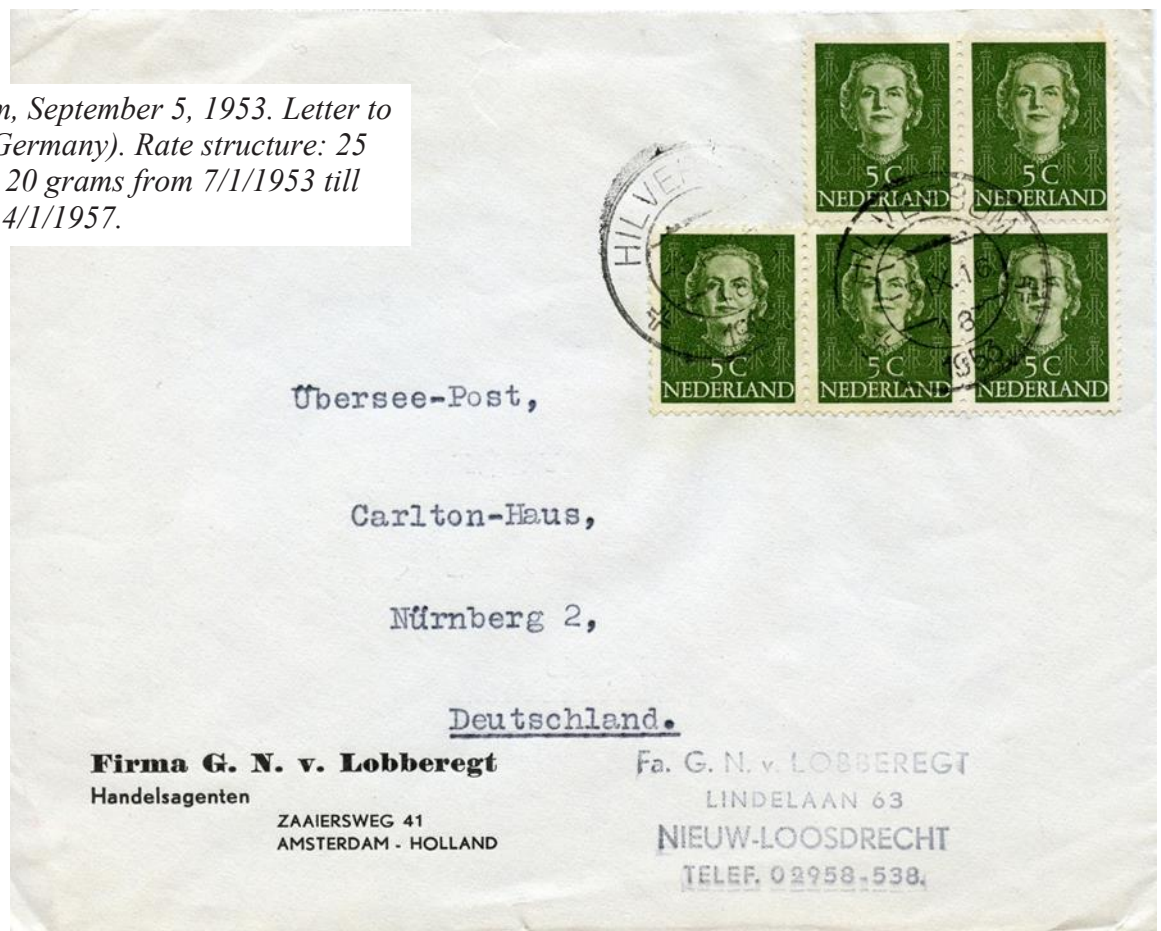




Figure 14: Oldenzaal, November 10, 1952. Express letter to Hamburg (West) Germany. Rate structure: 20 cents for letter till 20 grams from 11/1/1946 till 7/1/1953. Thirty cents express charge from 4/1/1947 till 4/1/1957. Total 50 cents, paid for with a block of ten stamps of five cents (Private collection). Back of the cover (cropped) shows postmarks of Oldenzaal (departure), Oldenzaal-Osnabrück (train cancel), Hamburg TA -Eilbriefe 11/11/1952, 6.10 am and Hamburg TA (TelegraafAmt) 11/11/1952, 7 am.

Postcards

Several postcards have been issued with the indicium of the five cent Queen Juliana “en face”: the single postcard (Figure 15), the double postcard with request and reply parts, two type of labor lists, and a railway card.

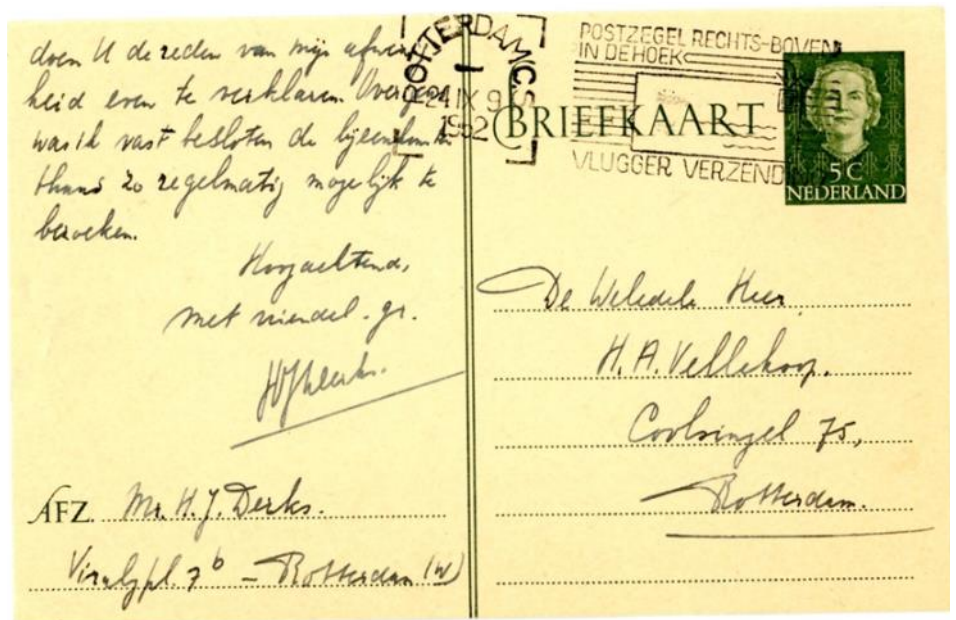


Figure 15: Rotterdam CS, September 24, 1952. Postcard with local destination. Rate structure: five cents from 11/1/1946 till 7/1/1953.

Final Remarks

This article could be expanded with: combined and mixed franking with the five cents “en face” used as additional postage, perfins of the five cents “en face,” special cancels on the five cents “en face,” five cents “en face” as supplementary franking on a package card, five cents “en face” as additional franking on postal stationery, and a postcard with the five cent “en face” indicium and additional franking.

Sources

NVPH Catalogue of the Netherlands and Overseas Territories
 Buitenkamp/Müller, Catalogus Postzegels op Brief, 1987/88

Mr. W. S. da Costa, Enkele binnenlandse post-tarieven sinds 1850. De Postzak (Po&Po), 63: 54 - 62, 1962

Drs. K. Goldhoorn, Van een halve cent tot één gulden vijfenzeventig. Een overzicht van de Nederlandse portzegels, PHS 6, Po & Po.

Geuzendam's catalogus van de postwaardestukken van Nederland en Overzeese Rijksdelen.

Bonus



Figure 16: 's-Hertogenbosch, November 10, 1949. Front and back (reduced in size) labor list with the five cents Queen Wilhelmina type Konijnenburg, returned to sender and re-franked with the five cents “en face.” The postcard of the type Konijnenburg was valid till September 30, 1949. Labor lists were issued starting in 1912 for local and interlocal use. In this case, a card with a local rate was mailed to Breda for which the interlocal rate of six cents applied. It seems that this was ignored, because an increased port has not been applied. In this time period, the postal worker was close to his ‘clients,’ which may explain that the card was re-franked and re-mailed on the same day as originally submitted. It also was not unusual that the postal worker applied the port himself, to expedite the process, because he knew that he would be reimbursed. Arrival November 12, 1949.

The snip at the top of the card relates to the business group the laborer is connected with. The snip facilitated sorting.

Errata

Two corrections need to be made concerning articles appearing in previous issues of our Magazine.

1. “Collecting Postal History of the KDP and RAPWI” (Volume 45, No. 6)

On page 122, it is erroneously written that the cancel (No. 28a) consisting of three lines (“KDP-PTT, MEDAN”, and date) is known to have been used only on 31 December 1945. A sharp-eyed reader, Gerard van Welie, kindly pointed out that the correct ONLY known date of usage was 29 December 1945; and he generously provided a

scan of a very nice KDP-Medan cover with cancel NO28a from his own collection (see Figure 1). Of course it would be exciting if a KDP-Medan cover with cancel NO28a dated some other date besides 29 December 1945 would surface; but, after all these years, that is probably just wishful thinking. After all, 30 December 1945 was a Sunday, very likely a day off for the KDP postal staff, and usage of KDP-Medan cancel NO28b started on Monday 31 December 1945. So maybe an earlier date is possible, but highly doubtful.

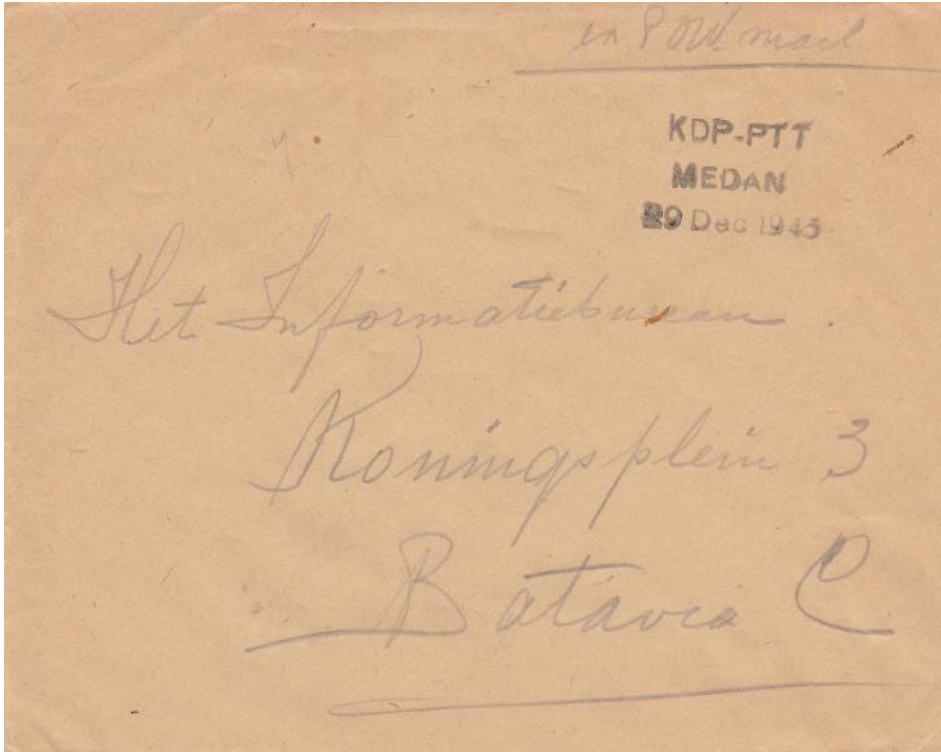


Figure 1: No 28a cancel on letter to Batavia (collection Gerard van Welie).

2. “Hr. Ms. O-13” (Volume 46, No.1)

The cover shown in Figure 1 on page 17 was mailed in 1945 and not 1940 as stated on page 18.

New Members

We welcome Franklin P. Holder, III from Eastman, Georgia as our newest member. His collecting interests are centered on Suriname

Recent Issues

Innovative the Netherlands

August 16, 2021

Each of the 10 stamps in the sheet depicts a special innovation project of Delft Technical University. The illustrations show in a humorous manner the essence and application of each innovation. The ten projects are: Biofuel, 4FOLD, Variable stiffness, Kite-power, Sandmotor, Tiler, Bluebloqs, Innozowa, Gaming @ the Dentist and EXO-L.

The sheet was designed by Luci van Engelen and Erwin Suvaal of CVIII Ontwerpers from Rijsbergen.



Dutch Horse Breeds

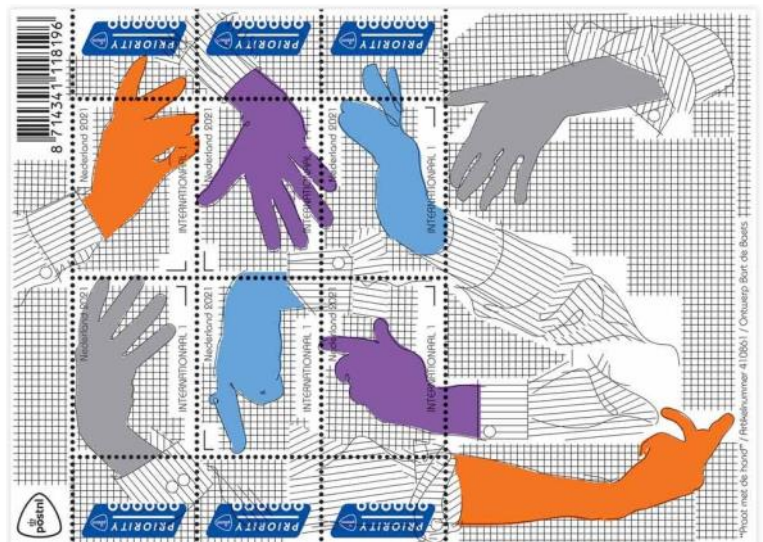
September 13, 2021

The sheet with 10 stamps shows photographs of four typically Dutch horse breeds: the Friesian, the Gelderlander, Groninger and pulling horse. The graphic design is by Jaap Biemans, and Eva Roefs was the photographer.

Talk by Hand

September 13, 2021

The sheet with six stamps has been designed by Bart de Baets from Amsterdam, nominated for the Dutch Design Award for Communication 2020. This sheet is the third in a series Dutch Design. Each year, winners or nominees of prestigious design competitions are given the opportunity by PostNL to design stamps based on their interests.



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

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