

*Dated Journal*

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# Netherlands Philately

# Magazine of the American Society for Netherlands Philately

# Volume 47/1



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# NETHERLANDS PHILATELY

## Magazine of the American Society for Netherlands Philately; Volume 47/1

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### Editor's Message

September, 2022

Dear Fellow Collectors,

This issue marks the start of the seventh year of my editorship of Netherlands Philately. It is always challenging to produce an interesting issue every other month.

This issue contains the obituaries of two long-time members and collectors. We learned about their passing in an indirect way. Therefore, I urge you to maintain a list of organizations and people that need to be contacted upon your passing.

You will notice that the Magazine Editorial Committee has zero members. If you are interested in serving, drop me a line. During the past six years, I have asked help with translating a Dutch article into English only once, so the amount of work is minimal.

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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Website: [www.asnp1975.com](http://www.asnp1975.com)

## Closed Albums—John Mardjohan Hardjasudarma

*by HansPaul Hager, President ASNP*

Our editor Ben Jansen already notified you in our previous Journal of the passing of John Mardjohan Hardjasudarma, I wanted to add to Ben's writing to give you more information about who John Hardjasudarma was and the contributions he made to our hobby and to the ASNP itself.

John was born October 15, 1943 in Jakarta, Indonesia. He came to the United States in 1971 with his wife Sheanny. He went back to Jakarta after he completed his MPH at the University of Pittsburgh PA. In 1975 he returned to the USA to do his internship in Radiology and he then specialized in Neuro-Radiology. He obtained the Board Certification of the Canadian and the American Boards of Neuro-Radiology. He was the author of numerous papers relating to his field of specialty: Radiology and Neuro-Radiology.



John Hardjasudarma or “Hardja” as fellow philatelists knew him, was from a very young age intrigued by stamps. He was an avid collector of stamps, covers and cancellations of the Netherlands, the Netherlands Indies, the Revolution Period and Indonesia. He continued to enjoy his hobby till he was no longer able to participate due to Parkinson's.

When Van Dieten Stamp Auctions in October 2016 presented his “Collection of the Japanese Occupation of the Netherlands East Indies 1942 to 1945 and the Republic of Indonesia 1945 to 1949” in Auction #634 they stated: “it does not happen frequently that such an important and extensive collection of this collecting area is offered, this collection is not just about philatelic items but many of these pieces have great historical value and significance”.

He published articles in American, Canadian and Dutch philatelic magazines and in our own ASNP Journal. In the American Philatelic Society Library Catalogue you will find a listing of 40 articles under his name, published between 1986 and 2017.

Hardja filled the function of Vice President of the ASNP from March 1996 till September 2021 and contributed greatly to the growth of our organization, in recognition thereof and in appreciation of his selfless devotion and outstanding contributions to Netherlands Philately, the American Society for Netherlands Philately presented him in May 2006 with The Johannes de Kruyf Award.

John Hardjasudarma passed away at the age of 78 on June 15, 2022 surrounded by his loved ones.

Thank you Hardja, we greatly appreciate all you have done for our hobby.



## Closed Albums—Tony Schrier

*by Ben H. Jansen*

Tony Schrier, a member of the Editorial Committee of *Netherlands Philately*, and cousin of Meindert Mossel, our advertising manager, was born in Amsterdam, The Netherlands on October 17, 1944, at the start of the ‘Hunger Winter’. He passed away on April 21, 2022 in Bayfield, Colorado from acute leukemia.

Tony started to collect stamps at an early age, with an emphasis on the stamps from the Dutch Indies and their plate faults.

Tony lived in Morocco as a child, where his father worked. He emigrated to Las Vegas when he was 14 years old and completed high school there. He served as a truck driver and dispatcher in Vietnam for the U.S. Army from 1965-1968 and also served in Mannheim (Germany).

Upon his return to the U.S., he launched a successful career as a finance executive with Citicorp and lived at various times in Minnesota, Texas and Utah.

In 1999, Tony and his wife of 50 years, Anne, built their home in Forest Lakes, a community eight miles north of Bayfield. Tony and Anne were co-founders of the Pine River Valley Heritage Society Museum, which displays artefacts from the bygone age.

Tony was active in his community and was instrumental in creating the Bayfield Cemetery’s Veterans Memorial.

Among his survivors are his wife Anne and their daughter Laura and husband, plus grandchildren.



# Help! My Mail Has Been PIMed.

*by Eddie IJspeerd*

## POSTAL CENSORSHIP IN OUR COUNTRY?

Imagine, on a beautiful day in April 2008 you receive the postcard shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Postcard dated April 7, 2008 with a white label with text: 'GECONTROLEERD' (checked).

As an attentive philatelist, you will of course immediately notice the large white label with the text 'GECONTROLEERD' (checked) on the card. You look again closely, become somewhat confused and think: "What is happening? Has postal censorship been introduced in our country?"

Googling doesn't help you any further and you decide to let the matter rest. Some time later, however, at a philatelic fair, you discover in a box of dime stuff a letter with a similar label but now with the text 'FRANKERING GECONTROLEERD' (postage checked) (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Mail piece dated April 28, 2008 with a white label with the text: 'FRANKERING GECONTROLEERD' (postage checked).

That text offers a little more clarity: the franking has been checked! Your interest is now really aroused and you start a more comprehensive investigation. It turns out that both labels have everything to do with a mail processing machine that came into use in the Nieuwegein Sorting Center on April 1, 2008. It concerns the 'PortenInnenMachine' (PIM) (literally: postage fee collection machine) of the firm Böwe Bell+Howell, type Intellistar MC. It is a so-called 'Multifunctional Compact Sorter' (hence the addition MC).

The machine assumes responsibility of a large part of the postage fee checking operations. This was a big leap forward for the TNT Post at the time, as checking for the correct payment of postage is labor-intensive and relatively expensive compared to the postage fee revenues.

Over time, all kinds of (philatelically very interesting) postage fee checking systems had been in use in our country with the similarity that the human part was considerable in all (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Examples of postage due items through the years: postage due rate written on the letter (top left), postage due stamps (top right), a blue postage due cancel (bottom left) and an example of a postage due card (bottom right).

With the arrival on the market of the PIM, it became possible to largely automate the verification of the correctness of the postage on postal items.

## NATIONWIDE COLLECTION OF POSTAL ITEMS WITH A POSTAGE SHORTAGE

I take you, anno 2009, to a random Sorting Center in our country. In such a Sorting Center culler-facer-cancelers (CFCs) are present to automatically cull, face and devalue the millions of mail pieces arriving daily [1]. These CFCs are not capable of detecting a postage shortage on a mail piece.

They can, however, detect that there is no phosphorescent marking on a mail piece, as is the case with Business Reply pieces, Postage Paid pieces, pieces with a franking machine imprint, and pieces with an invalid stamp or without any stamp. These pieces are collected in separate output stackers of the CFCs and processed further in various ways.



Mail pieces without a phosphorescent marking go to the stand-alone ‘Opzet Machine’ (OMA) (facing machine) (Figure 4).



*Figure 4: The ‘Opzet Machine’ (OMA) (facing machine) at the Nieuwegein Sorting Center.*

The name of this machine is quite confusing! The OMA does face the mail pieces like the CFCs, but separates the mail pieces into all kinds of categories. ‘Uitsplits Machine’ (UMA) (separating machine) would have been a better name!

When passing the OMA, a digital image is made of the mail piece. This digital image is displayed on a video screen after which an operator types in certain data that determine into which output stacker of the OMA the mail piece will be collected. One of the video tasks is to recognize the absence of a stamp and stamps without a phosphorescent marking. These mail pieces then land in the ‘Porten’ (postage due) stacker (Figure 5a/b) and are processed later on in the PIM in Nieuwegein. This kind of mail is also collected from the other five Sorting Centers and sent daily to Nieuwegein for processing in the PIM.



*Figures 5a/b: Output stacker 03 of the OMA in which the ‘postage due’ mail pieces are collected. Subsequently these mail pieces are sent to the Nieuwegein Sorting Center.*



If insufficient postage has been paid but the present stamp does have a phosphorescent marking, the letter is canceled in the CFC and then sorted in a sorting machine for small-format mail. Finally, the letter ends up at a letter carrier. He or she is supposed to do a final postage check during the manual delivery-walk sorting process. That manual postage check is a difficult task, especially if there is a mixed franking on the letter. If the carrier thinks a letter has insufficient postage, it has to be put in the special ‘postage due box.’

Above that box hangs a large A4-sized poster with reference P 6040A (Figure 6). Box label P 6040 (Figure 7) is attached to the postage due box and shows the name of the branch from which the box originates, visible on the date stamp that has to be placed in the circle on the label. Every evening the box with its content goes to Sorting Center Nieuwegein where the mail items are processed in the PIM.



Figure 6: A4 size poster P 6040A hanging above the box with PIM mail.



Figure 7: Box label P 6040 which is attached on the PIM mail box.

It will be clear that the cumbersome route via the letter carriers resulted in relatively few under-franked mail items to find their way to the PIM. The big profit will be found in the ‘reject’ mail from the many CFCs which, after being processed in the OMA, will go straight to Nieuwegein to be PIMed.

## FUNCTIONALITY OF THE PIM

Figure 8 shows the various functions of the PIM.

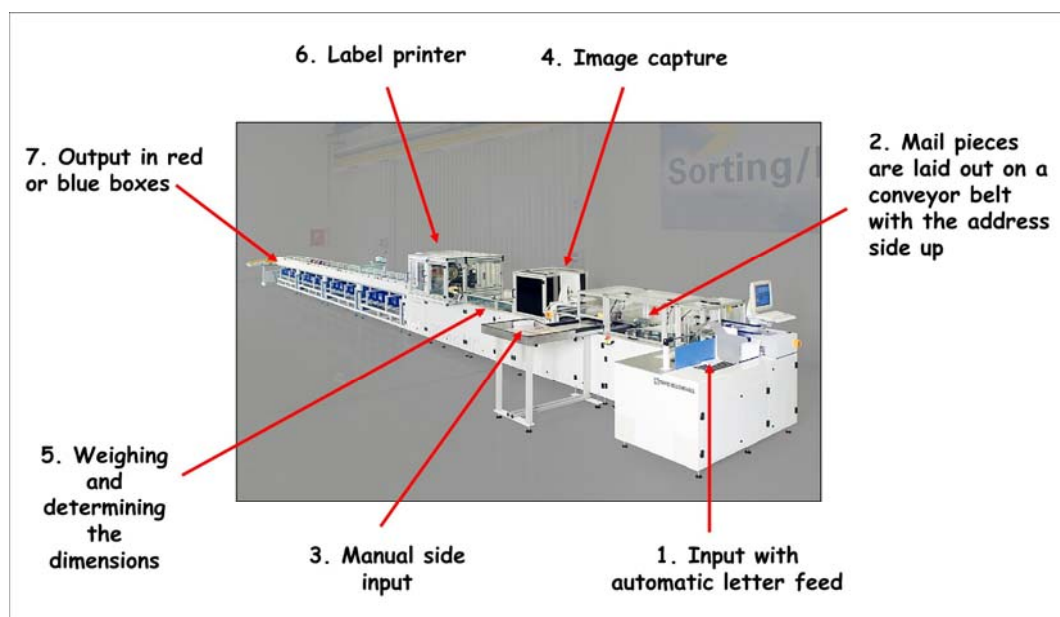


Figure 8: The various functions of the PortenInnenMachine (PIM).

### *Mail piece input*

Postal items can be entered into the PIM system through the input line with automatic letter feed (Figure 9) or through a manually operated side input (Figure 10) where mail pieces can be incidentally inserted into the mail flow.



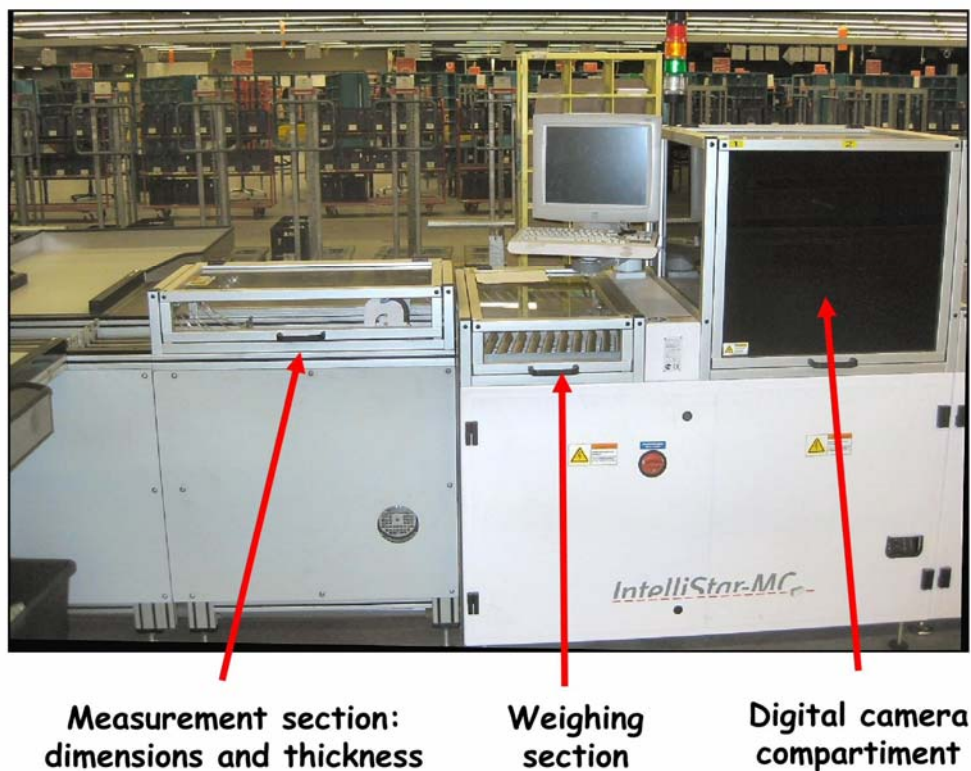
*Figure 9: Input line of the PIM with automatic letter feed.*



*Figure 10: In the middle of the PIM the manual side input.*

### ***Weighing, measuring and image capture***

After feeding, the mail pieces are laid flat on a conveyor belt with the address facing up. They pass an in-line weighing system where the weight of the mail piece is determined. Then the length, width and thickness are measured. They then pass the camera section where a digital image of each mail piece is taken (Figure 11). The digital image is linked to the measurement data and stored in a digital buffer.



*Figure 11: The measurement section where dimensions and thickness are determined, the weighing section and the digital camera compartment of the PIM.*

These data are used for mail format sorting and to determine the amount of a possible postage due charge.

### ***Label printing and label pasting***

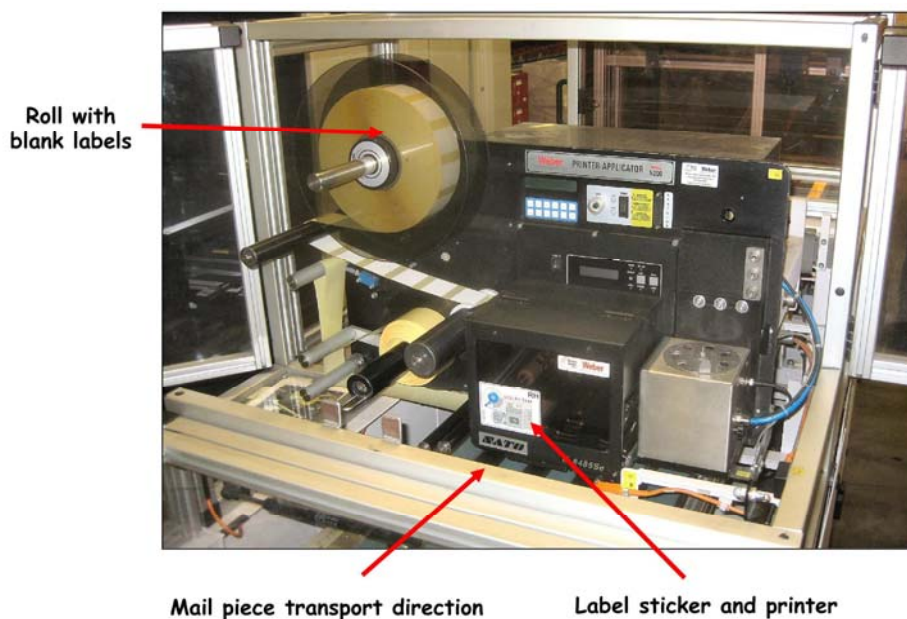
After the measurements, for each mail piece that passes the machine a label is created and attached to the mail piece (Figure 12).

A label on a mail item indicates that a postage check has taken place. This does not automatically mean that the mail item also has a postage shortage! There is a further checking trajectory to follow (described later).

From the start, a text line and a linear barcode were printed on the PIM labels. The earliest known PIM label with barcode dates from March 31, 2008, the day before the official start-up on April 1, 2008 (figure 13).

Until the early 2009s a linear barcode was printed on the label, later replaced by a 2-D barcode (Figure 14). The exact first day of the 2-D bar code is still unknown to us.





*Figure 12: The combined label printer and label sticking device of the PIM.*



*Figure 14: Mail piece that has passed the PIM in Nieuwegein, with a 2-D barcode on the label.*



*Figure 13: Earliest known PIM label with a linear barcode.  
Date: March 31, 2008.*

Text and layout variations of the labels can be observed with both label types. Three examples are presented in Figure 15.



*Figure 15: PIM labels with differences in barcode, text and layout.*

The meaning of the text above the barcode (e.g., N01.080402.010675) is:

N	=	Sorting Center initial, here Nieuwegein
080402	=	processed on April 2, 2008 (date format: year-month-day)
010675	=	number of mail pieces that had already been processed by the PIM on that day. On a subsequent label the number will be with one digit higher. In this case 010676.

In April 2008, something strange happened: occasionally we observed labels with text only on mail pieces (Figure. 16). The mail pieces in Figures 1 and 2 are an example of this phenomenon.

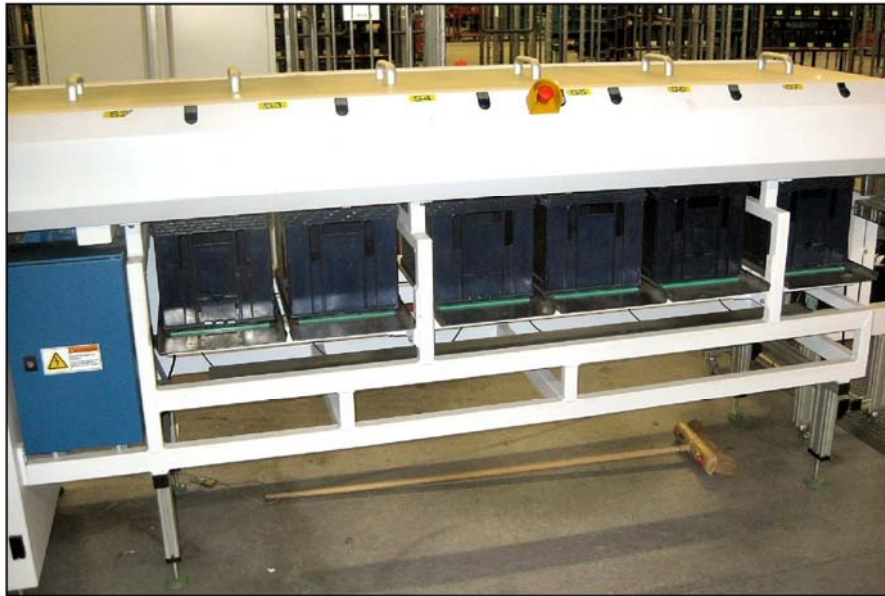


*Figure 16: PIM labels dating from April 2008. Text was printed off-line on the labels, which were affixed to the mail piece manually.*

These labels were not pasted on the mail pieces by the IntelliStar MC! Instead they were applied manually by TNT Post employees in Nieuwegein on mail items which, for one reason or another, were 'refused' by the PIM and also on mail items which could not be processed by the PIM because the machine was (temporarily) out of order due to maintenance or technical adjustments. It concerns self-adhesive address labels that can be bought for home-office printers in office supply stores. The text was created by TNT Post staff using word processors such as Word and printed on the blank labels. There is no uniformity in this process, hence the differences in font type and font size. Mail items with hand pasted labels have not been processed by the PIM and therefore no postage was charged.

### *Sorting Section*

Finally, depending on their size, in the sorting section of the PIM the mail pieces are deposited in a red collection box (small-format mail) or a blue collection box (large-format mail) (Figure 17). A funny detail in figure 17 is the broom under the blue bins. Do postal items sometimes fall beside the boxes?



*Figure 17: Sorting section of the PIM with blue output bins for mail pieces to be sorted in a sorting machine for large-format mail.*

The sorting task of the machine is important. The IntelliStar MC is a so-called ‘mixed mail’ sorting machine, which means that a mixed batch of mail (in the sense of mixed in formats) can be entered into the machine, after which a split into two format units takes place. The red boxes (for small-format mail) and the blue boxes (for large-format mail) from the sorting section of the PIM can be transferred directly to the sorting machines for small-format mail and the sorting machines for large-format mail in the Nieuwegein Sorting Center for further processing.

### *The postage charge*

The PIM itself does **not** determine whether there is a postage shortage! The machine only provides the data with which, at a later stage in the process, can be determined whether postage charges are actually due. The name ‘PortenInnenMachine’ (postage fee collecting machine) is therefore somewhat misleading in this context.

As we saw, a digital image is made of each mail item that passes the PIM and the dimensions and weight are determined electronically. These data are linked together, they form the data set of the mail piece.

The digital image of the letter is displayed on a screen in a separate video room, after which an operator types in the name, address, postal code and city of the addressee. These address details are linked to the data set and the whole is digitally sent to a Cendris branch.

In 2008, the internet reported:

*‘Cendris is part of Royal TNT Post B.V. The company offers a complete portfolio of specialist solutions in the field of direct communication, data and document management in the Benelux, the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany and Central Europe.’*

One branch of the Cendris organization is ‘TNT Post Billing & Document Solutions.’ This branch deals with the processing of PIM data and the collection of postage fees. At Cendris, the PIM data set of each mail piece is analyzed to determine whether it is indeed a letter to be charged. If so, Cendris creates a postage due card and sends it to the addressee. If after some time no payment has been made, a reminder card is sent. Many variants of both cards (see Figure 18) are now known [2].



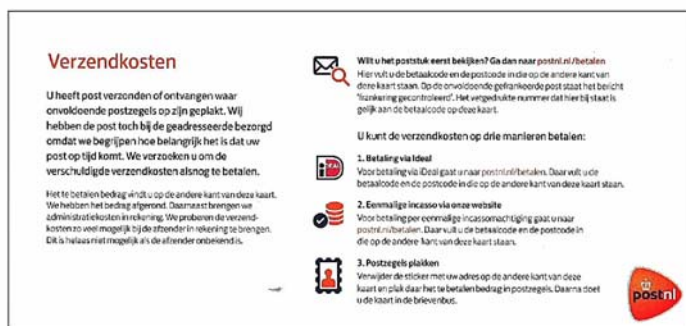
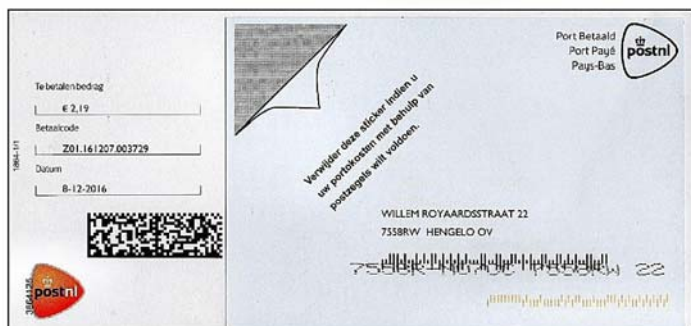


Figure 18: Front and back of two types of PIM postage due cards. These cards will be delivered to the addressee's home if a postage shortage is determined according to the PIM data.

The amount of postage due can be paid by sticking stamps to the postage due card or through the PostNL website. The payment procedure is described next.

## POSTAGE DUE CHECKING WITH A NEC NS-10 CULLER-FACER-CANCELER

In 2012, Nippon Electric Company (NEC) type NS-10 Schift-Opzetstempelmachines (Sosma) (Culler-Facer-Cancelers, CFC) were installed in the six sorting centers [3]. These machines took over automated postage due checking nationwide. The PIM in Nieuwegein remained only in operation for the postage due check of the mail items that the new CFC's could not handle in terms of size and/or thickness.

The NS-10 CFC, just like the PIM, also makes a digital image of the mail piece and determines weight, length, width and thickness. This measurement data is again stored in a digital buffer. However, the software is now able to independently determine whether a mail piece is underfranked through image analysis of the stamp(s) combined with the measurement data. This was not possible with the PIM but, as explained earlier, done by an operator.

In the NEC NS-10, the underfranked mail pieces end up in separate exit stackers. They are collected from all the CFCs present in a particular Sorting Center and processed again in one of the NEC NS-10 CFCs using a special run called 'PIMmen' (= processing according to the PIM procedure). During the 'PIMmen' process, an imprint is applied to each mail piece via inkjet technology (Figure 19).



Figure 19: Imprints of the postage due checking system of the NEC NS-10 CFC's, identified by the six sorting center initials D - G - H - R - U - Z, where D = Amsterdam, G = 's-Gravenhage, H = 's-Hertogenbosch, R = Rotterdam, U = Nieuwegein, and Z = Zwolle .

The location initial in the alphanumeric text line on the postage due print shows in which Sorting Center and in which CFC the mail piece is PIMed:

D = Amsterdam, G = 's-Gravenhage, H = 's-Hertogenbosch, R = Rotterdam, U = Nieuwegein, and Z = Zwolle .

The meaning of the alphanumeric text line such as Z03.190517.001326 in the imprint is :

Z = mail item processed in Sorting Center Zwolle  
 03 = in NEC NS-10 CFC number 03  
 190517 = date in the format yymmdd (i.e., May 17, 2019).  
 1326 = this is the 1326th mail piece processed on this day.

Note that the postage due print of Zwolle shown in Figure 19 lacks the text 'FRANKERING,' possibly due to a printer issue.

Variations of the imprints exist with a difference in font size and in the alignment of the text (Figure 20).



Figure 20: Differences in font size and alignment of the text 'FRANKERING GECONTROLEERD', centered or right aligned.

At the turn of the year 2017/2018, Sorting Center 's-Gravenhage was closed. This means that imprints with the location initial 'G' will no longer occur after that time.

If the software has determined that too few postage has been applied (as is the case with the letter in Figure 21), the digital image of the letter is displayed on a screen.



Figure 21: Mail piece for which a postage shortage has been determined and on which an imprint has been applied by NEC NS-10 CFC nr. 03 at Zwolle.

A video operator prepares a special postage due card based on the address data (Figures 22a and 22b). Letter and postage due card are sent separately to the addressee. The addressee is asked to pay the shortage of postage plus processing costs.

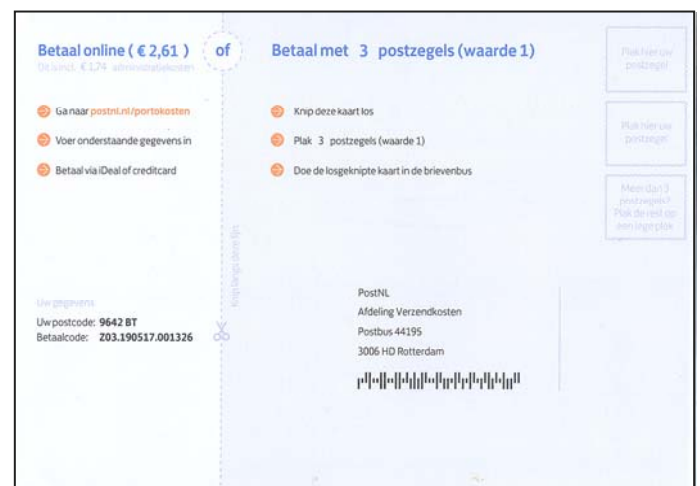



Figure 22a: Address side of the postage due card associated with the letter shown in Figure 21.  
Figure 22b: Backside of that postage due card with payment information and space to pay the amount due using 3 stamps.



At [www.postnl.nl/portokosten](http://www.postnl.nl/portokosten) payment can be made via the Internet. There you can find a scan of the letter and also information on why one has to pay (Figure 23).

**Poststuk bekijken**



Z03.190517.001326

**Reden: Te weinig postzegels**

€ 2,61

Hiernaast ziet u hoeveel postzegels er bij versturen op het poststuk zijn geplakt en hoeveel dit er eigenlijk hadden moeten zijn.

**Uw poststuk**  
Gewicht: 35 gram  
Afmetingen: 15,6 x 16 x 0,28 cm

<b>Opbouw te betalen bedrag</b>	
Benodigd voor poststuk	€ 1,74
Geplakt op poststuk	€ 0,87
<hr/>	
Verschil	€ 0,87
Vers. afgerond	€ 0,87/1 postz.
Adm. kosten	€ 1,74/2 postz.
<hr/>	
Totaal in euro's	<b>€ 2,61</b>
Totaal in postzegels	<b>3 postzegels waarde 1</b>

Figure 23: Screenshot of the postage due website of PostNL with information associated with the letter shown in Figure 21.

These data show that the weight of the mail item is 35 grams, while sufficient stamps have been affixed for 20 grams only. The postage difference (€ 0.87) plus twice the rate for a 20-gram letter (€ 1.74) in administration costs (total € 2.61) must be paid.

If payment is not made within a certain period of time, the addressee receives a reminder card in a different layout on the address side (figure 24). The backside with the payment information is unchanged.

## Betalingsherinnering

Geachte heer, mevrouw,

Rond **17-05-2019** heeft u post ontvangen waar te weinig postzegels op zijn geplakt. De afzender is helaas onbekend. Daarom hebben we u een portokaart gestuurd met het verzoek om de portokosten van **€ 2,61** te betalen.

**Bent u hier nog niet aan toe gekomen?**  
Kijk dan op [postnl.nl/portokosten](http://postnl.nl/portokosten) om te zien om welk poststuk het gaat, en hoe u alsnog kunt betalen.

Met vriendelijke groet,

Het team van PostNL

Z03.190517.001326

Port Betaald

GROTE BELT 40  
9642 BT VEENDAM

A10CC #0653G6A#62#0506#

Figure 24: Address side of the reminder card associated with the letter shown in Figure 21.

## A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

The step-by-step automation of postage charging from 2008 onwards has produced and continues to produce many wonderful items in a philatelic sense! We are highly amazed at the great variety of postage due cards. It seems as if every six months a variant with a new layout appears.

To collect all those variants is a real challenge. Postage due letters are relatively scarce, let alone the postage due cards. Who keeps those documents?

The NEC NS-10 CFCs will last for some time, so another type of postage due imprint will probably not emerge soon on mail items. All quite in that area. All our attention can now be focused on the postage due cards. Will you help us track them down?

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author thanks Teun Molenaar for his contribution to this article in the form of scans of postage due imprints and card from his PIM collection.

## NOTES

1. Jos M.A.G. Stroom, The Facer-Cancelers of the Netherlands and the associated machine cancels, Netherlands Philately 45-1 to 45-4.
2. PIM continues to captivate the collector, Article in magazine 'Post & Techniek' no. 02. Published by the 'Groep Post Mechanisatie', 2010
3. Eddie IJspeerd, The NEC NS-10 Culler-Facer-Canceler of Nippon Electric Company, Netherlands Philately 46-5 and 46-6.

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

## New Members

This time we welcome three new members:

George Bernstein, from South Euclid, Ohio. He collects Netherlands.

Henk Schuringa, from Pijnacker in The Netherlands, collects Netherlands and its former colonies. He is also a topical collector, concentrating on cartography and geodesy. These topics are closely related to his professional background.

Stephen Zarko, from Lewisburg, West Virginia,, is a collector of the Netherlands Indies and its Japanese Occupation.

# Dutch Food Parcels for British POWs in Germany During WWII.

by Hans Kremer

Recently I bought (via eBay) the postcard shown In Figure 1. Unfortunately, it never arrived, so we'll have to do with the scans from Ebay.

The front reads (translated):

**POW mail - Free franking**

To  
the Central Information Office of the  
Dutch Red Cross,  
Zwarteweg 75  
's Gravenhage  
Holland

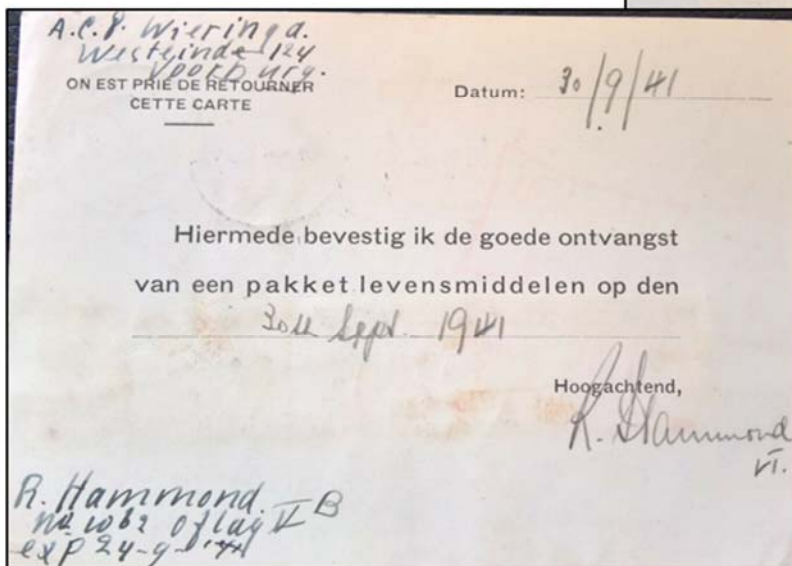


Figure 1:  
Above: Front of 1941 Red Cross reply card returned  
from a POW camp in Germany.  
At left: Back of the 1941 Red Cross reply card.

On the back of the card is a pre-printed message, to be completed by the POW. It reads

“Hiermee bevestig ik de goede ontvangst  
van een pakket levensmiddelen op den  
30th Sept. 1941

Hoogachtend,

(I hereby confirm the safe receipt of a package of victuals on 30th Sept. 1941.  
Sincerely Yours)

The postcard was signed by R. Hammond. He acknowledged his sponsor, through the Dutch Red Cross, that he had received the food package in good order and when he had received it.

The Dutch Red Cross in early 1941 had announced that, upon request, the name of an English POW, held in Germany, would be passed on with the understanding that the recipient of such an address would send a food package to that POW. After receiving the package a ‘Thank You’ note was received at the Red Cross in ‘s Gravenhage which then would be forwarded to the sponsor of that POW.



The Dutch Red Cross Website writes:

*“The Red Cross became much more famous for sending food parcels to prisoners. The Red Cross branch in London, the London Committee, also sent parcels. Because the Germans did not recognize this department, the employees themselves could not send anything. That is why they called in organizations in other countries and Dutch prisoners received parcels through American, English and Argentine organizations.”*

The Red Cross tried to send the prisoners a package once a month. The organization asked f 6.50 per package from the family as a contribution to the costs. If they could not afford this, the Red Cross paid. Many producers helped to fill the boxes.

At the lower left on the postcard was a handwritten note:

R. Hammond  
No. 1062 (?) Oflag V B  
Exp 24-9-1941

What was an Oflag?

Oflag refers to *Offizierslager*. A World War II German internment camp for prisoners of war with the rank of officer. Lower ranked POWs were sent to Stalags. The word Stalag is a contraction of “Stammlager,” itself short for *Kriegsgefangenen-Mannschaftsstammlager*, a literal translation of which is “War-prisoners—enlisted men base camp.” Therefore, technically “stalag” simply means “base camp.”

Trying to find out more about R. Hammond led me to [https://www.pegasusarchive.org/pow/reg\\_wood.htm](https://www.pegasusarchive.org/pow/reg_wood.htm) which included a picture of him (Figure 2).

The text accompanying the picture explained that it was published in the Evening Standard on the 11th September 1941, and that the photograph showed British officers of the Princess Louise Kensington (Middlesex) Regiment, who were taken prisoner in France early 1940. They were sent to a prison camp in Poland and afterwards transferred to Oflag V B. Lieut. R. Hammond is the person standing to the right.

Thus the postcard shown in Figure 1 was written by Mr. Hammond while he was a POW in Oflag V B in September 1941.

The Website showing Figure 2 is titled “A Wartime Log For British Prisoners.” The diary was kept up by Lieutenant Basil Reginald Wood. It started on September 1, 1939 and ended on May 7, 1945, covering WWII from beginning to end (close to six (!) years).

How did R. Hammond and B. R. Wood become prisoners of war?

From the “[Kensington to St Valery en Caux](#)” by Robert Gardner:

*“In April 1940 the Princess Louise’s Kensington Regiment (to which Mr. Hammond and Wood were assigned (HK)) left England to join the British Expeditionary Force in France. It was attached to the 51st (Highland) Division which was moving to the Saar region to defend the Maginot Line. From May until mid-June the Kensingtons were in continuous action, first on the Saar, then on the Somme, and finally in a fighting withdrawal along the Channel coast in an attempt to reach Le Havre. Outnumbered four to one the division was cornered at the little seaside town of St. Valery-en-Caux and forced to surrender on June 13, 1940.”*

Mr. Wood describes those June days in great detail. He had expected until the last moment that they would be evacuated across the Channel. It was not to be.



Figure 2: British officers of the Princess Louise Kensington (Middlesex) Regiment in Oflag V B. Back (left to right): Lieut. H. J. Lavington, Lieut. R. Hammond; (front, left to right): Lieut. A. R. Mickle, Captain H. R. Mountford and Lieut. B. R. Wood. (Copyright: Mrs. Marjory Wood.)

As soon as the POWs were captured they started their track (by foot) north through France, Belgium, to the Netherlands, and from there by barge into Germany (Wesel) with further transportation to Oflag VII C (Laufen, in south-eastern Bavaria), where they were held until March 1941 with subsequent confinement in Fort 8, Stalag XXI D (Posen or Poznan, Poland) to June 1941, Oflag V B (Biberach, south-eastern Baden-Württemberg) to October 1941, Oflag VI B (Dösse/Warburg (eastern North Rhine-Westphalia) to September 1942, and ultimately Oflag VII B (Eichstätt, about 100 km north of Munich), where they were held for close to three years until liberation in April 1945.

Mr. Wood describes their arrival in and trip through the Netherlands as follows:

*“29th Jun (1940). Issued with cup of coffee and 1/3 loaf and set off at 06.30hrs. for Holland where barges were to take us down the Scheldt into Germany. Passed through very beautiful forests with attractive cafes in them. Passed over Dutch-Belgian frontier, quite different. Everything very neat and clean and fields cultivated up to last inch of ground. Factory girls rushed out and gave us each a sandwich, reached Hulst at 10.15hrs. Red Cross officials gave us 2 sandwiches each. Put in train, 70 in compartment for 40, very hot. Dutch threw food in to us. 11.30hrs. arrived at Walsoorden, given extremely stale loaf, 3 potatoes and soup which was our ration for journey on barge. Taken to the river Scheldt and allowed to bathe. Boarded barge ‘Queen Emma’ at 17.00hrs. French seized all accommodation down below but left us the deck, we were thus really far better off. Sailed off at 18.00hrs. Went through locks and mass of waterways connecting Dutch islands. Girls in national costume. Tied up for night at Emmeircht (? (HK)), hoards of French kept coming up from below and told what they could do.*

*30th Jun. Went into river Maas, concrete pill-boxes on banks of river, bridges blown up. Delightful scenery; Dutch men and women in canoes seemed oblivious there was a war on. At 11 o/c stopped at Dordrecht and a meat sandwich a head given us by inhabitants, also small quantity of honey. Speech by German officer from boat in perfect English saying how fortunate we were in coming into Germany and he hoped when we returned home we would take back many happy memories with us. Sun boiling hot; envied girls in bathing costumes. Arrive at German-Dutch frontier, forts blown up. At 19.00hrs tie up at Wesel and see our first German civilians; very apathetic and show little interest. Flags flying from all buildings to celebrate victory over France. German Luftwaffe soldiers and N.C.Os talk down to us. Boat pulls away and anchored midstream for night.”*

Their arrival in Oflag VB (south-eastern Baden-Württemberg) in June 1941 is described by Mr. Woods as follows;

*“11th June, 1941. Reached Leipzig at 02.00hrs and surprised to see all station lights blazing, no doubt too far for R.A.F. bombers. At Donauworth pass over the Danube and again at Lanningen. Neuffingen, Ulm where we cross the Danube again. Bathing huts on banks of river, beautiful cathedral but light A/A guns mounted on roofs of houses. Finally reach Biberach am Ris (Oflag VB, see Figure 3) at 21.00hrs. March up hill to camp about 1 ½ (miles) away and arrive there in darkness. New brick buildings, first impression very good, guard says ‘Viel besser.’ It is quite a good camp but exercise space very small. Marched into Blocks, we go into Block 2 and bed linen, blanket and crockery laid on each bed. 14 in the room, amongst them Hammond who has been with us the whole time.”*

The next couple of days some more comments about Oflag VB:

*“Heavy luggage brought up from station. Had march kit rewashed and had excellent hot shower in good bathroom. The first hot shower since Feb 28th. Food, though meagre, excellently cooked by French cooks.*

*Camp composed of 8 Blocks, six for officers,*



Figure 3: Oflag VB in Biberach am Ris, between Stuttgart and Munich.



*1 administration, 1 for Orderlies. Wooden recreation hut used for theatre and library; canteen; exercise perimeter about 300 yards; grass plots outside each Block. Excellent washing accommodation and sanitation. Stone area outside canteen used as small football pitch”.*

On September 23, 1941 Mr. Wood Noted: *“Received 7th Dutch parcel.”* Was this the food parcel Mr. Hammond referred to in his postcard?

Their arrival at VII B (Eichstätt, about 100 km north of Munich):

*“13th Sep. 1942. Went through Nuremberg at about 07.00hrs and stopped. Guards obtained hot water for shaving and to make tea with. Typical Bavarian scenery again, domes, cupolas etc. Arrive Eichstatt station at 09.00hrs. Trouble with Sonderfuhrer over smoking. Move off, march through old-world town, very pleasant and charming. After 20 minutes march reaches camp (see Figure 4) in valley. On one side hill, another river ..... and hills. Schloss in distance. Marched into camp and onto large field. Pleasant sight to see green grass in camp again and avenue of trees. Three big Blocks and hospital on upper level and five new blocks on lower level. First impression, good clean camp with plenty of exercise space. Strip tease search and then taken to Block 6, 32 in room (5 in Block and one room of 16). Too many, but everything clean and new. Carbide lamps the only drawback. Top Blocks old, pre last war, but smaller rooms and no passage through them like lower Blocks and better washing and lavatory accommodation. Beer on sale in canteen, smallish theatre but extra parades most days. Dieppe boys here.”*



Figure 4: Oflag VII B as it looked in 2013.

On 14 April 1945, as the U.S. Army approached, the officers were marched out of the camp. Unfortunately, only a short distance from the camp the column was attacked by American aircraft, who mistook it for a formation of German troops. Fourteen British officers were killed and 46 were wounded.

The camp was liberated by the U.S. Army on 16 April 1945. The POWs were repatriated to their home countries. For the British this meant a march begging for food from farmers until transport reached them.

English composer Benjamin Britten wrote a short piece for male voices *The Ballad of Little Musgrave and Lady Barnard* and dedicated it to ‘Richard Wood and the musicians of Oflag VIIb.’ The work was completed on December 13, 1943 and smuggled into the camp on microfilm for the prisoners to sing.

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## Back to Sender for Postage.

by Ben Jansen

Mail gets returned to sender for a variety of reasons. Insufficient postage is one cause of non-deliverability. Determining how much postage to apply was not always easy before the introduction of the '1' and '2' rates for domestic and international mail, respectively. One would think that the use of stationery with imprinted stamps would solve the problem, but as the two following examples show, that is not always the case.



Figure 1: November 29, 1978, The Hague to Benidorm (Spain).

Figure 1 shows a mailsheet ('postblad') mailed in The Hague on November 29, 1978 to someone staying at a camping in Benidorm, Spain. The District Post Office The Hague applied label P4511 before returning the mail to sender. This label was introduced in 1957, but this one was printed in 1977, as successor to the P4 label. The printed text on the label explains that additional postage needs to be affixed and that the label must be removed before bringing it back to the post office. Hand-written is the text 'Not for abroad.' An arrow points to the text under the word 'POSTBLAD' explaining that the sheet is to be used for domestic correspondence only. Air mail sheets required 75 cents per the tariff of January 12, 1976.

The postcard shown in Figure 2 was mailed on September 26, 2004 from Deventer to Nieuwegein. The card has an imprinted Fl. 0.80 stamp and was officially issued on May 1, 1998. It became a victim of the introduction of the Euro in 2000. The imprinted 80 cent stamp was less than the € 0.39 (equivalent to 85 cents) required per the tariff of January 1, 2002. Thus TPG Post applied label P4503 explaining that "The mailing does not meet the postage requirements mandated by TPG Post."



Figure 2: September 26, 2004, Deventer to Nieuwegein.

## Recent Issues

### Experience Nature — Sint-Pieters berg

June 13, 2022

The sheet with 10 stamps is part of the multi-year series Experience Nature. In this case, the marl landscape of the Sint-Pietersberg in the south of Limburg is the focus of attention. The stamps, designed by Frank Janse from Gouda, depict the flora and fauna of the marl landscape situated between Maastricht, the Belgian border, and the Meuse and Jeker rivers.



### King Willem I

June 20, 2022

The sheet with six stamps was issued on the occasion of the 250th birth year of King Willem I, the first king from the House of Oranje-Nassau. The stamps show portraits of the king, the king and his spouse Wilhelmina van Pruisen, and the city palace of Fulda.

Willem I was born in The Hague in 1772 and married Wilhelmina van Pruisen in 1791. He was "Fürst" of Fulda from 1802 till 1806, and was declared king of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands (the present day Belgium and the Netherlands) in 1815. He abdicated in 1840.

The stamps were designed by Nicole Uniquole, in collaboration with Graphic Design students of ArtEZ University of the Arts, Zwolle.



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

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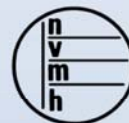
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