

*Dated Journal*

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& Overseas Areas philately since  
1975**

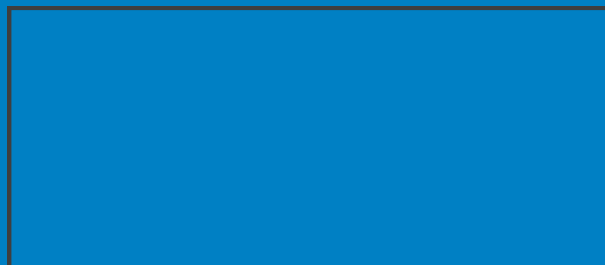
# Netherlands Philately

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

**Volume 48/2**



**TO:**





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# NETHERLANDS PHILATELY

## Magazine of the American Society for Netherlands Philately; Volume 48/2

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### Editor's Message

November, 2023

Dear Fellow Collectors,

Issue 48/2 contains five articles, all by different authors. This is possibly a record. Several articles are short—one to two pages—but this shows that you do not need to have a lot of material to become a published author!

You will read on page 46 that 11 new members joined the ASNP since issue 48/1 was mailed out. While we continue to lose members because of old age, our total membership keeps growing (slowly), in contrast with many other philatelic clubs. We must be doing something right!

The collecting interests of the new members are quite varied, extending beyond the traditional collecting categories listed on the membership application form. I do hope that some of the new members will produce some attractive articles about these topics.

Because I will be travelling during most of October (Bulgaria and Albania), the (printed) Magazine may arrive a little later than usual.

Cheers,

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.

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



# Collecting the Grey and Yellow Red Cross Envelopes of The Netherlands East Indies.

*by Martinus Quist*

During the period 1940-42, the Netherlands East Indies (“NEI”) Post Office Department (“PTT”) issued three (3) different Red Cross envelopes in three (3) different colors, each with pre-printed addresses of Red Cross organizations. Since the white/cream-colored envelopes are quite rare and are already well described and illustrated in the Dutch postal stationery catalog, Geuzendam’s *Catalogus van de Postwaardestukken van Nederland en Overzeese Rijksdelen*, 8th edition 2008 (“Geuzendam”), I will limit this article to the grey and yellow Red Cross envelopes, neither of which are listed, described, or illustrated in Geuzendam. By the way, the white/cream-colored Red Cross envelopes are also well illustrated and described by Piet van Putten and Nico de Weijer in their book, *Postal Censorship and Internment Camp Mail in the Netherlands Indies 1940-1942* (“van Putten/de Weijer”).

## Part 1, Grey Red Cross Envelopes

Most readers of this article will likely be familiar with the grey Red Cross envelopes, because they are quite commonly seen and are not very expensive. Nevertheless, as explained below, they can be fun to collect, and some of them are actually quite scarce. The grey Red Cross envelopes (See Figure 1) were issued in 1940 and 1941 to enable limited communications between friends and family members in the NEI with those in the German occupied Netherlands. Germany invaded the Netherlands on 10 May 1940 and occupied the entire country within five (5) days. Meanwhile, the NEI would not face the horrors of war until shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941. As a result, normal mail service between the Netherlands and the NEI was interrupted (and postal service between the NEI and other countries became irregular and intermittent, as World War II expanded in 1940 and 1942); and people in the NEI became understandably anxious about the health and welfare of their friends and relatives under the German occupation.

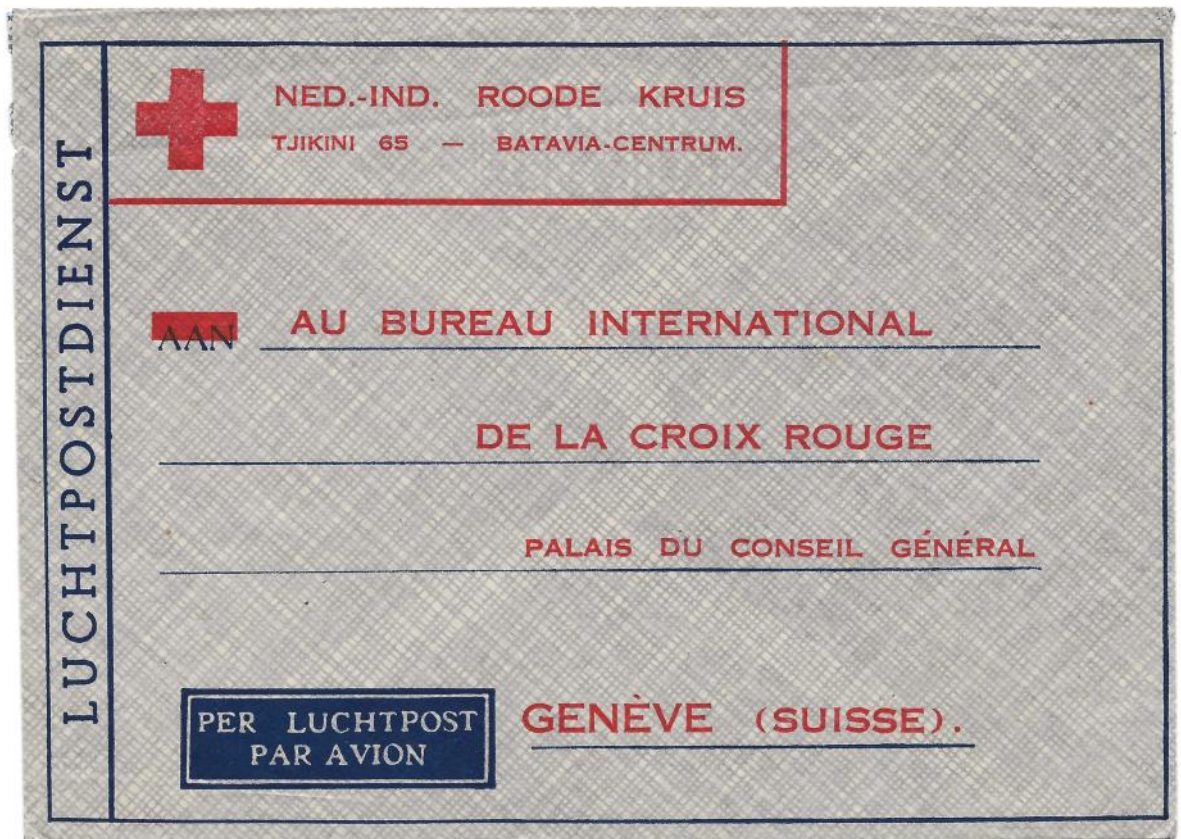


Figure 1: Red Cross envelope issued in 1940 and 1941.

As described by van Putten/de Weijer, during the nearly 22 months that the NEI remained free (up until the Japanese invasion in late 1941 and subsequent occupation starting in early 1942), the Contact Bureau Netherlands-Indies ("CIN") and the Netherlands Indies Red Cross ("NIRC") in Batavia developed and distributed throughout the NEI a contact form (known as "Form 61"), which was designed to establish basic communication with friends and family in the Netherlands via the International Red Cross ("IRC") in Geneva. Initially these forms were collected in large numbers by the CIN, bundled up, and hand carried with great difficulty to the IRC. Although responses did eventually come back to the CIN in the NEI, the whole process was very slow and cumbersome.

However, since mail service with Switzerland was still possible, with airmail service by KLM at least up to Iraq, the CIN and the NIRC developed and the NEI PTT distributed to all post offices and sub-post offices in the NEI an improved Form 61 (See Figure 2), which could be mailed by the sender to the IRC in Geneva in a newly-issued grey Red Cross envelope.

According to "van Putten and de Weijer, the new Form 61 went on sale on 15 October 1940 for a nominal sum (Bulterman, below, says 2c for the envelope and Form 61). The sender also had to frank the envelope with postage stamps totaling 35c and to enclose a 17.5c International Reply Coupon (see Figure 3).

**+** **NEDERLANDSCH-INDISCHE ROODE KRUIS**  
**TJIKINI 65 - BATAVIA-CENTRUM**

---

**VERZOEK - REQUEST - REQUETE**

aan het CENTRAAL BUREAU van het INTERNATIONALE ROODE KRUIS  
to the INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE  
au COMITE INTERNATIONAL de la CROIX-ROUGE

Palais du Conseil Général — Genève (Suisse).

**VERZOEKER — ENQUIRER — DEMANDEUR**

Naam/Name/Nom \_\_\_\_\_  
Straat/Street/Rue \_\_\_\_\_  
Plaats/Locality/Localité \_\_\_\_\_  
Land/Country/Pays \_\_\_\_\_

**BERICHT — MESSAGE — MESSAGE**

(ten hoogste 25 woorden, uitsluitend beknopte familieberichten)  
(not over 25 words, family-news of strictly personal character)  
(25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial)

---

Datum/date/date \_\_\_\_\_

**GEADRESSEERDE — ADDRESSEE — DESTINATAIRE**

Naam/Name/Nom \_\_\_\_\_  
Straat/Street/Rue \_\_\_\_\_  
Plaats/Locality/Localité \_\_\_\_\_  
Land/Country/Pays \_\_\_\_\_

Dit formulier in een gefrankeerden omslag te zenden aan het Bureau International de la Croix-Rouge — Palais du Conseil Général — Genève (Suisse) onder insluiting van een internationale antwoord-coupon, verkrijgbaar bij alle postkantoren.

Please send this form to the International Red Cross Committee — Palais du Conseil Général — Geneva (Switzerland) in a stamped envelope, enclosing an international Reply Coupon to cover postage expense.

Prière d'envoyer ce billet sous enveloppe affranchie au Bureau International de la Croix-Rouge — Palais du Conseil Général — Genève (Suisse) en ajoutant un Coupon-Réponse International.

**ANTWOORD AAN OMMEZIJDE**      **REPLY OVERLEAF**      **REPOSE AU VERSO**  
Zeër duidelijk schrijven s.v.p.      Please write very clearly.      Prière d'écrire très lisiblement.

GENORMALISEERD. 5530—40

Figure 2: Improved Form 61.





Figure 3: 17.5 cent International Reply Coupon.

Messages to family and friends were required to be of a personal nature only (no business correspondence, for example) and were limited to twenty-five (25) words. Because all mail to/from the NEI had been subject to censorship since shortly after the German invasion of the Netherlands, almost all of the grey envelopes first went to the General Censorship Office (“GCO”) in Batavia for opening, censoring, resealing with censorship tape, and handing over to the NIRK to apply their circular stamp in red ink. Because it was also illegal to export monetary instruments, such as stamps, currency, stocks and bonds, without a permit, some of the grey Red Cross envelopes were also subject to currency censorship under the direction and rules of the Netherlands Indies Foreign Exchange Institute (Deviezeninstituut); and these envelopes received a small circular ‘deviezen’ control mark. See Figure 4

for an example of a small round “Dev.” with number marking applied at Batavia.

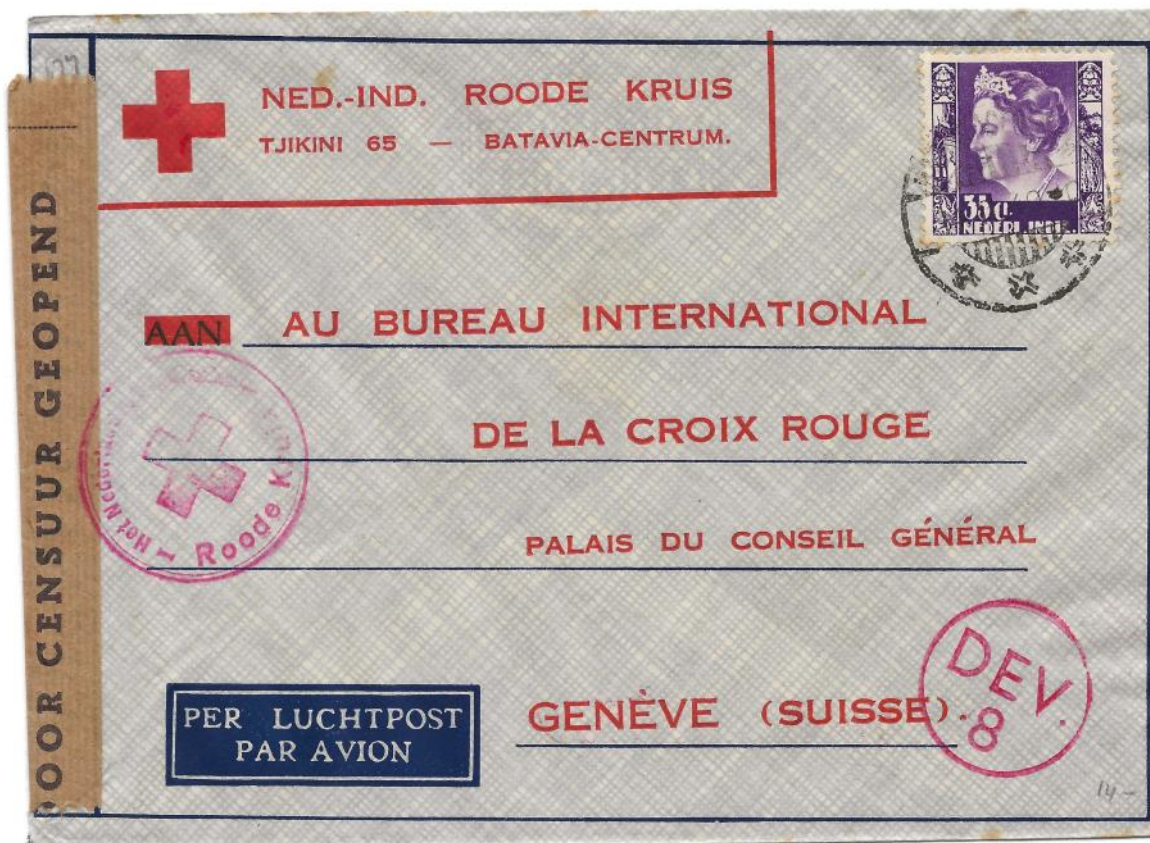


Figure 4: Red Cross cover with ‘deviezen’ control mark.



Often, these grey Red Cross envelopes were further censored by other countries along the way to Geneva. Also, a very small number of grey Red Cross envelopes received NEI censorship from authorities other than the GCO, such as the NEI Navy. See Figure 5 for an example censored by the NEI Navy, but note there are no currency control or Red Cross markings.



Figure 5: Red Cross cover censored by the NEI Navy.

According to P.R. Bulterman in his 2009 book, *Nederlands -Indie in Oorlog, Correspondentie van 10 Mei 1940 tot December 1949* (“Bulterman”), at least ten (10) different censor markings have been found on these grey Red Cross envelopes originating in the NEI, three (3) of which were foreign (German, Italian, British India, Bermuda, and England). However, he casts great doubt on the authenticity of the forty (40) or so Egyptian-censored grey Red Cross envelopes that were supposedly among the thousands of the grey Red Cross envelopes that hit the market sometime in the 1960s. He also notes that a small number of the Red Cross grey envelopes along with Form 61 were distributed to the Dutch Consuls in Hong Kong, Penang and Singapore for the Dutch population in these centers. These were franked with local stamps, received local (British) censorship (obviously, without the NIRK circular marking), and presumably had enclosed a local International Reply Coupon equal in value to 17.5 NEI cents. Undoubtedly, these are quite rare, as I have only seen a single example (from Penang) for sale on eBay in recent years. Also extremely rare, according to Bulterman, are grey Red Cross envelopes that were franked with stamps totaling one (1) NEI Guilder (100 cents) and sent by Pan American Clipper across the Pacific Ocean and onward to Geneva via San Francisco.

Collecting grey Red Cross envelopes can be fun; and, to find some of the rarities described by Bulterman, can be quite challenging. Based on my own interest in this area, which developed only several years ago, I would say that the grey Red Cross envelopes in mint condition along with a blank or filled out Form 61 and an unredeemed International Reply Coupon are also fairly scarce, while Grey Red Cross envelopes with censorship other than by the GCO in Batavia are somewhat uncommon. Grey Red Cross envelopes with unusual frankings (the vast majority being franked with a single 35c Kreisler definitive of Queen Wilhelmina en profil) and or with cancels from remote or small post offices or sub-post offices are always desirable in any collection; and those with a return address or markings from a protection camp for German women, mentioned below, would be the collection crown jewel! (See Bulterman page 19 and van Putten/de Weijer page 239 for examples.)

## **Part 2, Yellow Red Cross Envelopes**

As mentioned above, the Netherlands was invaded by German forces on 10 May 1940. Immediately, upon learning of the German attack, NEI Governor General, van Staekenborgh, issued the code-word "Berlin", which was an order to the military and police to seize all German ships in NEI ports (including 2 Danish ships, since Denmark was already occupied by Germany) and to arrest and detain their crews, as well as all male "Germans" over the age of 16 found in the NEI. The term "Germans" was applied very broadly and included, among others, missionaries, German Jews who had fled Europe, Austrians, naturalized Dutch persons of German origin, retired German nationals who had served in the NEI military or civil service, and adult children of German fathers and native women. The latter group often spoke no German. Also rounded up were Dutch members of the NEI Nazi Party ("NSB") who were considered dangerous; male and female. Obviously, many of these detained persons did not represent a threat to the NEI, and continuing to detain them was terribly unjust. Ultimately, about three hundred (300) detained persons (a few Germans, many Austrians, some Czechs, and a number of stateless German Jews) were released, but about 2800 persons became long term internees. Initially, the internees were housed in temporary camps, prisons, forts, unused factories/plantations and other facilities, mostly under appalling conditions. In fact, the conditions on Onrust Island offshore Batavia were so bad that van Staekenborgh, after a personal inspection of the island, gave orders to immediately locate and build a more suitable prison camp in a cooler, healthier (higher altitude) location. Fairly promptly, such a location was identified (an abandoned plantation at Koetatjane in the Alas River Valley in North Sumatra), and a new camp, consisting of sleeping barracks, mess halls, kitchen facilities, bathing and toilet facilities, were built on about 25 acres. Naturally, the camp was surrounded by barbed wire and watch towers, but the living conditions, there, including the food, were greatly improved. There were even canteens, postal facilities, concerts, plays, and a daily allowance of ten (10) cents. In some cases, internees with personal means that had been taken over by an Orphan Chamber (Weeskamer) could get an allowance of up to ten (10) guilders per month, which was deducted from their frozen asset accounts. Just outside of the fence, there were three (3) hospital/medical facilities manned by German doctors and specialists. About thirty (30) of the men were deemed to be hardcore Nazis, and they were housed in a separate barrack, which was more heavily guarded. Not surprisingly, Germany, upon learning (from the Swiss Consul) of the primitive conditions under which the internees were initially kept, took two hundred and thirty-one (231) persons (nearly all NEI residents on leave in the Netherlands) hostage on July 19-20, 1940, and sent the men to Buchenwald and the women to Ravensbrück. Germany further demanded that all the internees in the NEI be released and all German-owned property be returned. This did not happen, and on 7 October 1940, the Germans took an additional one hundred and sixteen (116) men hostage.

Meanwhile, the wives and children of many of the German internees not only became impoverished (since the family breadwinners were in jail), but they became fearful for their safety as a result of the growing virulent anti-German sentiment among other Europeans in the NEI. As a result, the NEI government established a number of protection camps (beschermingskampen) on Java and Sumatra where the German women and children could go to voluntarily. Whether still at home or in a protection camp, the women and children were allowed to correspond by postcard with the men in various internment camps and the interned men had similar correspondence privileges. (NEI postal stationery cards to, from, and between these camps make for a very interesting collecting area; but, since not all of these cards received legible (or any) camp markings, they often require careful scrutiny of the address of the recipient and/or the sender.) Whether due to pressure caused by the German hostage takings or otherwise, the German Consular staff, as well as all German women and children were eventually allowed to leave the NEI. Not all German women wanted to leave, however; and several hundred chose to stay with their children in their respective protection camps for a variety of reasons, including hostility towards the Nazi party, being Jewish



or married to a Jewish man, fear of returning to Germany in the middle of a war, etc. Shortly after the Japanese occupation started in March of 1942, these women and their children were set free, while the Dutch residents of the NEI were, themselves, put in internment and prisoner of war (POW) camps.

At some point late in 1940, the NEI authorities must have decided that the internees were actually POWs, because, starting in November of that year, a new Yellow Red Cross envelopes marked, “SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE, FRANC DE PORT” (POW Service, Postage Free) became available to the men at the Koetatjane Camp, as well as to the difficult/hard core Nazi women interned at the Banjoebiroe Camp near Ambarawa, Central Java (and, perhaps, as discussed below, to such women at the Huize Berg en Dal Hotel near Soekaboemi, West Java.) Along with these yellow envelopes came a yellow Red Cross contact form similar to Form 61 above. According to Bulterman, these yellow envelopes are known to have been sent out of the NEI between 9 Nov. 1940 and 22 March 1941, although an example in my collection is clearly dated 31 May 1941 (see Figure 6).



Figure 6: Yellow Red Cross contact form, postmarked 31 May 1941.

Bulterman further indicates that in June of 1941, about 1000 of these were received in Germany. The yellow contact forms themselves are extremely rare (see an example illustrated in Bulterman at p. 241); but the yellow envelopes, though fairly scarce, do turn up on the market fairly regularly. Most of them originated from the Koetatjane Camp, and they are all marked with a long bar circular date stamp reading “CDT-INTERNTN-KAMP” along the upper half and “KOETATJANE” along the lower half, with the day, month, and year across the long bar in the middle. Since postage freedom only applied to sea post (very slow), most of these envelopes we franked with stamps to cover the air mail surcharge of twenty cents (20 c). Out of the six (6) yellow Red Cross envelopes in my collection, only one (1) of them did not receive airmail franking (see Figure 7).



Figure 7: Yellow Red Cross contact form without airmail postage.

Because they exhibit no resealing labels, the yellow envelopes sent from the Koetatjane Camp must have been turned in unsealed and sent in bundles to Medan, Sumatra for postal canceling and forwarding to the GCO in Batavia for censoring, sealing and stamping by the NIRK. One (1) example in my collection mailed from the Koetatjane Camp, strangely, has no censor making of any kind (see Figure 8).



Figure 8: Yellow Red Cross contact form without censor markings.



Another example mailed in May of 1941 from the Berg en Dal Camp, as illustrated on pp 206 and 296 of van Putten/de Weijer, shows an NEI resealing label (as well as a British one), but no other NEI censor marking. By the time the latter example was mailed, there must have been some confusion as to whether the Berg en Dal Camp, which had previously housed the German Consular staff, was a protection camp or an internment camp. This may be why, by crossing out the airmail label, the authorities appear not to have considered the sender to be entitled to free franking, thereby applying the postage stamps not to airmail, but to regular surface mail. I have never seen a yellow Red Cross envelope mailed from Soekaboemi, so maybe the one illustrated in van Putten and de Weijer is unique (and possibly improper usage by the sender). Yellow Red Cross envelopes from the Banjoebiroe camp (see Fig. 9 ) are not as common as those mailed from Koetatjane, but that is easily explained by the fact that the latter camp, from November 1940 until late December 1941, held well over 2,000 prisoners, while the former camp, from November 1940 until the camp closed on 22 March 1941, held less than 200 adult women. The Banjoebiroe yellow envelopes also appear to have been sent unsealed in bundles to the GCO in Batavia and were marked with a long bar circular date stamp similar to the one used in the Koetatjane Camp, but the lower half reads “BANJOEBIROE”.



Figure 9: Yellow Red Cross contact form mailed from Banjoebiroe camp.

It is interesting to note how few of the yellow Red Cross were sent by seapost/surface mail and how many were overfranked. For example, two (2) of the 6 yellow envelopes in my collection were franked with stamps totaling thirty cents (30 c) (See Fig. 10 and Fig. 11.) The same was noted by Bulterman (on p. 19) with respect to a yellow Red Cross cover mailed from the Koetatjane Camp. Maybe the overfranking was done on purpose by the senders in hopes that the mail would have a better chance of getting through all of the mail disruptions caused by the war. After all, someone on a weekly allowance of only ten cents (10 c) wouldn't be likely to overfrank by mistake! As with grey Red Cross envelopes, most of the yellow Red Cross were franked with a single stamp from the Kreisler definitive set (this time the 20 cent value), but examples with more interesting franking are always more desirable to add to any collection. The same goes for additional (foreign) censorship or other unusual markings. For example, the envelope in Fig. 6 above not only exhibits British censorship (probably at Singapore), but someone (either the NEI censor, the NIRK, or the British censor) has crossed out the “Luchtpost” (Airmail) instruction with a red pencil, despite the proper airmail franking. Perhaps by this late date (31 May 1941), airmail service was no longer available and the envelope had to go by sea mail.



Figure 10: One of two yellow Red Cross contact forms with excess postage in my collection.



Figure 11: Second of two yellow Red Cross contact forms with excess postage in my collection.



Immediately following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Japan went after the real prize that they were seeking, namely, the oil wells of British Borneo and the NEI, and WWII rapidly threatened the big internment camp at Koetatjane. As a result, arrangements were quickly made to evacuate the prisoners to a POW camp in Dehra Dun, British India in three (3) groups. About 75 men who were deemed to be old or too sick were left at the Koetatjane camp and were eventually freed by the Japanese. Starting just after Christmas day 1941, the first two (2) groups, consisting of 975 and 938 men, respectively, were successfully transported to Bombay by ship. The third group, however, encountered a terrible disaster when their ship, the SS van Imhoff, was attacked and sunk by a Japanese aircraft just off of the West coast of Sumatra, and about 400 of the prisoners died. To go into all of the details of this sordid story is beyond the scope of this article, but it is well described in numerous books (including van Putten/de Weijer), articles, websites, and even videos. The most comprehensive van Imhoff website is listed below under “sources.”

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# The Colditz Story, Oflag IV C, a Residence for Troublemakers, the Dutch Guests. (Part 6, and final part)

For Hanny & Connie Becking

by Julian van Beveren

Stalag IV A Elsterhorst, Saxony

Figure 37 shows a Red Cross reply postcard to Holland in acknowledgement of the food parcel received by Flight Lt. Don S. Thom R.A.F. on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1944. We see that the Becking sisters did not confine themselves to Red Cross voluntary work exclusively with the POW establishment at Colditz.

Censors handstamp in red ink in approval for transmission to Holland **Stalag IV A 18 geprüft**.



Figure 37: Back (top) and front (bottom) of Red Cross acknowledge postcard dated 21st April 1944.



Kriegsgefangenenpost – Offizierlager IV C

**Kriegsgefangenenpost**

An Miss H.G. BECKING,

**GEPRÜFT**  
**75**

Gebührenfrei

Empfangsort: \_\_\_\_\_

Straße: 10 ADELHEIDSTR,

Kreis: THE HAGUE,

Land: HOLLAND.

Landesteil (Provinz usw.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Deutschland (Allernagne)**

Lager-Bezeichnung: \_\_\_\_\_

Kriegsgefel.-Offizierlager IV C

Gefangenennummer: 336

Vor- und Zuname: FLT M.W. DONALDSON R.A.F.

Absender:

Figure 38: Standard folding letter from Flt. Lt. M.W. Donaldson, R.A.F. The red crayon tick top right indicates letter has been read and passed by the censor, GEPRÜFT / 75.

It is always worth reading the historical documents of the kind shown in Figure 38 not only in obtaining a feel for the time but just as importantly, as in this example, we learn how other POW's were able to communicate with one another and relay that information onto their wider family; Censors permitting. In this case enquiry is being sought on the welfare of Flt. Lt. Don S.Thom, R.A.F. shown in the previous exhibit, through Red Cross volunteer Hanny Becking. See Figure 39 for the letter's content and the subsequent transcript.

Dear Hanny:-

May 18<sup>th</sup> 1944

Received two letters from you yesterday & was I pleased. You were saying that, having written a letter & then read it through, you were invariably disappointed with it. Now please banish that idea from your mind as I can assure you your letters are the most interesting & amusing I receive. Gee Hanny you've simply created a riot amongst my mess mates, of which there are four; the reason being that lovely photograph you sent of yourself. My idea was to put it up on a little dress I have alongside my bed, but this I was not allowed to do. The chaps insist that it be hung up in the center of the room, where it now resides in all its glory. One of my friends Bill Scott by name, a Canadian taken at Dieppe insists I procure for him a Dutch girl to write to; could you help me out Hanny? his P.O. number is 4066. By the way, I sent you a parcel the other day, but owing to the powers that be, it was very limited, containing a few cigarettes & some soap. I had three pounds of tea all saved to send you to, but my hosts forbade it. How are Tor & Hank getting along these days Hanny? Please send them my regards when next you write. And if you ever hear from Don then again would you mind passing on the information to me as it is the only way I have of letting his mother know how he is. Well, its cheerio again for a while. Good luck & write soon. As ever, Don.

Figure 39: Contents of letter shown in Figure 38.

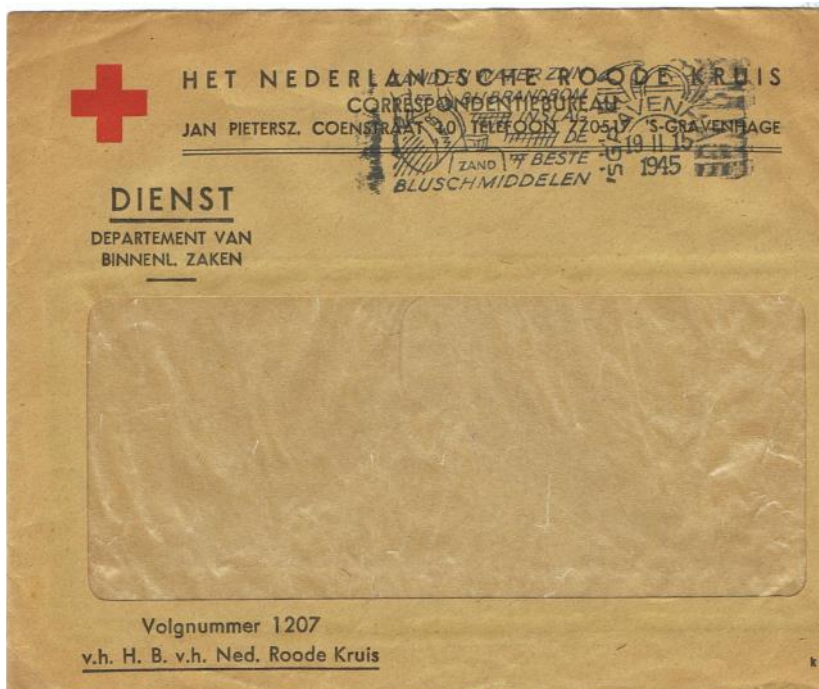


The transcription of Figure 39:

*Dear Hanny  
Received two letters from you yesterday & was pleased.  
You were saying that having written a letter & then read  
it through you were invariably disappointed with it.  
Now please banish that idea from your mind as I can  
assure you your letters are the most interesting & amusing  
I receive. Yes Hanny you've simply created a riot amongst  
my mess mates, of which there are four; the reason being  
that lovely photograph you sent of yourself. My idea was to  
put it up on a little dresser I have alongside my bed, but  
this I was not allowed to do. The chaps insist that it is hung  
up in the centre of the room, where it now reposes in all its  
glory. One of my friends, Bill Scott by name, a Canadian  
taken at Dieppe, insists I procure for him a Dutch girl to write  
to, could you help me out Hanny? His P.O.W. number is  
4066. By the way, I sent you a parcel the other day, but  
owing to the powers that be, it was very limited, containing  
a few cigarettes & some soap. I had three pounds of tea all  
saved to send you to, but my hosts forbade it. How are Ton  
& Hank getting along these days Hanny? Please send them  
my regards when next you write. And if you ever hear from  
Don Thom again would you mind passing the information  
on to me as it is the only way I have of letting his mother  
know how he is. Well, it's cheerio again for a while, good  
luck & write soon. As ever Don.*

## HET NEDERLANDSCHE ROODE KRUIS

### CORRESPONDENTIEBUREAU



The Dutch Red Cross maintained a correspondence office at the J.P. Coenstraat 10 in The Hague. Figure 40 shows an example of the type of Dutch Red Cross stationery envelope in which postal correspondence could be sent to the Red Cross volunteer workers Hanny and Connie Becking sisters, similar to the various acknowledgement and thank you postcards seen in this exhibit that could have been forwarded after scrutiny by the censor.

Figure 40: Dutch Red Cross stationery cover.

# A follow-up to Fly with Billed Bladet and Bendt Rom to Australia with KLM and KNILM: An exotic journey in 1939 with a philatelic aspect.

*by Jørgen Cleemann*

Since my article in *Netherlands Philately*, Vol. 42, No. 4 in March 2018 I have been able to acquire further postcards in connection with Bendt Roms journey with KLM/KNILM from Amsterdam to Sidney and back, among others two postcards mailed from Vliegveld Talangbetoetoe to Denmark.

After Bendt Roms stay in Singapore he continued his journey on 13th February, 1939 with the KLM- airplane PH-ALU "Uil" (Owl).

The equator was now crossed, and the journey went after a stopover at Vliegveld Talangbetoetoe (Figure 1), Palembang's airfield, which was approximately 10 miles northwest of the city, to Batavia, the capital of Netherlands East Indies.

Since 30th July, 1931 it had been possible at Vliegveld Talangbetoetoe to hand over airmail letters to the KNILM

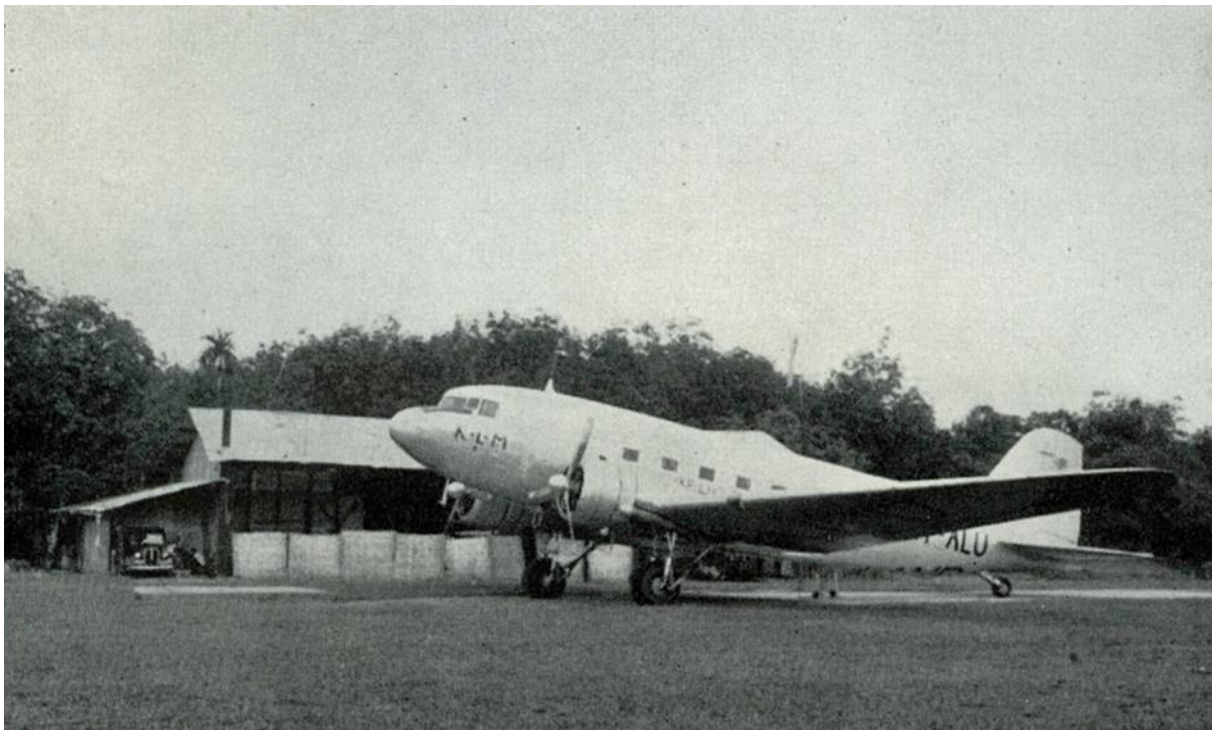


Figure 1: PH-ALU "Uil" at Vliegveld Talangbetoetoe, Palembang's airfield. One of the most primitive stopovers on the route. Photo: From the book "En flyvetur paa 42000 km."

agent there, who also took care of the handling, and for this purpose a yellow mailbox with the image of an airplane had been set up in the airfield building. The postal authorities had provided the agent at the airfield with a cancel (Figure 2) which was to be used only for the cancellation of these airmail letters. The earliest known use of the cancel is 31st October, 1931, and the latest known date is 19th February 1940. As Figures 3 and 4 show, Bendt Rom took advantage of that opportunity!

This service was also later extended to other airfields/-ports in Netherlands East Indies.



Figure 2: Date cancel for use at airport Talangbetoetoe.





Figure 3: Postcard sent 14th February, 1939 from Vliegveld Talangbetoetoe on Sumatra to J.A. Dyekjær, Copenhagen carried on the KLM-airplane PN-ALP "Pelikan" departing Batavia 14th February, 1939 and arriving Amsterdam 20th February for onward transport to Copenhagen. The airplane brought a total of 362 kg of mail on departure from Batavia.

The card is correctly franked with 30 cents. The rate for postcards to UPU-countries was in 1939 10 cents and airmail fee by KLM to Europe was 20 cents. The stamps are cancelled with the special airport-cancel Vliegveld Talangbetoetoe. Author's collection.

The text on the card reads:

*Now it is eternal summer and scorching sun here. At home it's probably cold and raw? I am more than delighted that KLM lets me exchange a few cold winter months in Europe for a few summer months in the tropics – You should only be able to do that every year. Hope all is well. Greetings Rom*



Figure 4: Here the stamps seem to have been placed in a wrong way! Identical text as in Figure 3. Author's collection.

## References

- Bendt Rom: "En flyvetur paa 42000 km", Copenhagen 1940.  
 P.R. Bulterman: "Poststempels Nederlands-Indië 1864-1950", Deventer 1981.  
 J. Boesmann: "De Postvluchten Indië-Nederland", 1946.  
 P. Storm van Leeuwen: "Binnenlandse en buitenlandse posttarieven van Nederlands-Indië 1864-1949".  
 Studiegroep ZWP Home page: Kortebalk, Talangbetoetoe.

# 1931 Zeppelin Mail Exchange at the Arctic.

by Hans Kremer

The postal card shown in Figure 1 was sent July 1931 from the Hague to Friedrichshafen, Germany, and from there with the Graf Zeppelin to the Arctic where it was dropped off at the Russian ice breaker Malygin (Figure 2), before being returned to the Hague.



Met beste groeten,

*[Handwritten signature]*

Figure 1: Postal card sent July 1931 by Graf Zeppelin from Friedrichshafen to the Arctic.

The original plan of the Graf Zeppelin flight at the Arctic latitudes envisioned a rendezvous with the submarine Nautilus, which had to arrive at a specified location of the Arctic under ice. An exchange of mail between Nautilus and the airship was suggested. However, this project failed because of technical difficulties with the submarine. As earlier planned, the mail exchange had to occur but now the rendezvous was to take place with a surface vessel at the northern point of the flight. The mail had to be exchanged with the Russian icebreaker Malygin which was on a tourist cruise to the Arctic.

## Zeppelin Flight diary:

Friday, July 24, 1931 Friedrichshafen-Berlin

Saturday, July 25, 1931 Berlin-Leningrad

Sunday, July 26, 1931 Leningrad to Franz-Josef Land

The Graf Zeppelin flew from Leningrad via Arkhangelsk, from where, during the evening, it crossed the Arctic Circle between the Kola and Kanin peninsulas in the White Sea.



Figure 2: 1981 Soviet Union stamp showing the ice breaker Malygin.



Monday, July 27, 1931 Leningrad to Franz-Josef Land  
(continued)

In the late afternoon of July 27, the Graf Zeppelin LZ-127 landed on the icy water just off Hooker Island in Franz-Josef Land. The Soviet icebreaker Malygin rendezvoused with the airship here (Figure 3).

July 28, 1931 Franz Josef Land – Sewernaja Semlja – Taimyrhalbinsel – Nowaja Semlja

July 29, 1931 Nowaja Semlja – St. Petersburg

July 30, 1931 St. Petersburg – Berlin

July 31, 1931 Berlin – Friedrichshafen (am Bodensee)

Fifty thousand cards and letters, weighing 300 kg (660 lbs.) were flown to the Malygin and 270 lbs were picked up from the passengers aboard the Malygin. The costs of the expedition were met largely by the sale of special postage stamps issued by Germany and the Soviet Union to frank the mail carried on the flight (Figure 4).



Figure 3: Landing of the Graf Zeppelin near the ice breaker Malygin.



Figure 4: 1931 German (at far left) and Russian Polar flight stamps.

At Friedrichshafen the mail had received a special red marker (shown in Figure 5): Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin Polarfahrt 1931.

On arrival at the Malygin a special cachet: “Brise-Glace Malyguin (!) Arctique / 27 VII 31“ was applied (Figure 6). Brise-Glace being French for ice-breaker.



Figure 5: Red marker applied at Friedrichshafen..



Figure 6: Cachet applied at the Malygin..

PTT Circular # P.293 of July 11, 1931 states: The Dutch mail put on this polar flight should not be heavier than 20 grams, must have the full address of the sender, bear an airmail label and one of the following markings: “Mit Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin bis Leningrad”, “Mit Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin zur Abwurfstelle im Polargebiet” or “Mit Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin zum Eisbrecher”. The additional airmail surcharge in addition to the regular postage had to be paid by means of Dutch franking and/or airmail stamps, amounting to: for postcards to the icebreaker for fl. 1.10 each, for letters fl. 2.20 each. The surcharges for mail going only as far as Leningrad should be 55 cent for postcards and fl 1.10 for letters.

Shown in Figure 7 is a letter that went only as far as Leningrad.



Figure 7: From The Hague via Friedrichshafen per Graf Zeppelin to Leningrad, July 1931.

The red marker on the mail to Leningrad reads: Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin Polarfahrt 1931 / bis Leningrad.” The cachet reads: “Par Avion Zeppelin / Leningrad 25 VII 31.”

The correct postage of the postcard shown in Figure 1 was 12 1/2 cent regular fee plus the fl. 1.10 airmail surcharge, totaling fl. 1.22 1/2, paid for with the Queen Wilhelmina 1 guilder ‘Veth’ stamp (NVPH # 163) and the 22 1/2 cent ‘Veth’ stamp (NVPH # 190). The Leningrad letter of Figure 7 also needed 122 1/2 cent postage, paid for with the 22 1/2 cent ‘Veth’ stamp (NVPH # 190) and the One Guilder clearance issue (NVPH # 133) of 1923.



# The “Amsterdam E” Train Markers – A Follow-up.

*by Jan Verster*

In his article The “Amsterdam E” Train Markers (this journal, Volume 44, No. 1, pages 15-18), Hans Kremer quotes Vellinga on the uses of this marker (in translation):

*The mail to and from England and to and from other countries via England, including the West Indies, which went via Vlissingen-Queenborough (according to PTT Service Order of 1st May 1894) was escorted to and from Roosendaal by an Amsterdam official who sorted out the mail for Amsterdam and postmarked it – letters on the reverse side and postcards on the address side.*

*For this purpose an Amsterdam mark with the train character E was used since the time of arrival would not always be the same. This postmark replaced the normal marker used at arrival (in Amsterdam) of the mail.*

*This postmark was also used on the route Amsterdam – Vlissingen for mail posted at Amsterdam at the last moment, for mail lifted from the station box or found in the train box, so that the postmark also did service as a cancellation.*

The two examples shown in Hans Kremer's article are both uses as arrival marks. Based on the description in Vellinga, examples used in the other direction should be scarcer. In Figure 1, I show an example where the “Amsterdam E” cancel is used on the route Amsterdam – Vlissingen. As the sender of the postcard, Ruys & Co, is a shipping agent based in Amsterdam, I believe that it is most likely to be an example of mail posted at Amsterdam at the last moment.



Figure 1: Postcard from Amsterdam to London (UK).

## New Members

We welcome 11 (!) new members. In alphabetical order:

Murray Abrahamson from Brookline, MA, who collects items related to the Permanent Court of International Justice, and its successor the International Court of Justice.

Charles Bromser, lives in South Melbourne, Australia. His philatelic interests include the Dutch East Indies, including stationery and covers.

Jakab Géza hails from Hungary and lives in Budapest. He is a collector of the Dutch East Indies, Dutch New Guinea, the UNTEA period and the Japanese Occupation of the DEI.

Alexander Green resides in Richmond (Tasmania), Australia. The DEI and its occupation by Japan are among his philatelic interests.

Rick Leimbach of Salt Lake City collects The Netherlands, FDCs, perforation, and color variations.

Christian Schunk lives in Obing, Germany. His interests include (modern) locals ('Stadspost', i.e. city mail), post-WWII territorial changes of the continental Netherlands (e.g., villages of Elten and Selfkant returned to Germany), border anomalies (e.g., Baarle-Hertog), South Moluccas, (modern) fieldpost, e.g., Dutch UN troops, and Dutch Caribbean islands.

John Thiesen, from Rønne, Denmark, is interested in airmail and crashmail.

Antoine Vassallo lives in Victoria on the island of Gozo, which is part of Malta. Printing errors and local mail are his focus.

Emiel van Wezel resides in Harderwijk. In addition to his interests in Dutch stamps pre 1945, his collecting interests include the Belgian Refugee Camp Harderwijk (1914-1918), and the 80-year war (1568-1648) on Dutch stamps.

Karl Winkelmann of Lectoure, France, focuses on censorship items from the Netherlands and especially to Ireland.

Arie Zonjee lives in Castricum and collects stamps and stationery of the Netherlands and its overseas territories (except Surinam), and Indonesia, including varieties, proofs, revenues and railroad stamps plus EO philately.

In case you are wondering, the flood of new members came about through the help of a recent member, Tom Fortunato, who suggested to mail out a press release announcing our, possibly unique, free e-membership. Tom provided an e-mail list of philatelic organizations, and the response has been quite phenomenal. The present membership total is about 115, with members from all over the world. Perhaps it is time to rethink the name of our society; rather than the American Society for Netherlands Philately, we may want to call ourselves the International Society for Netherlands Philately. Let me know what you think.

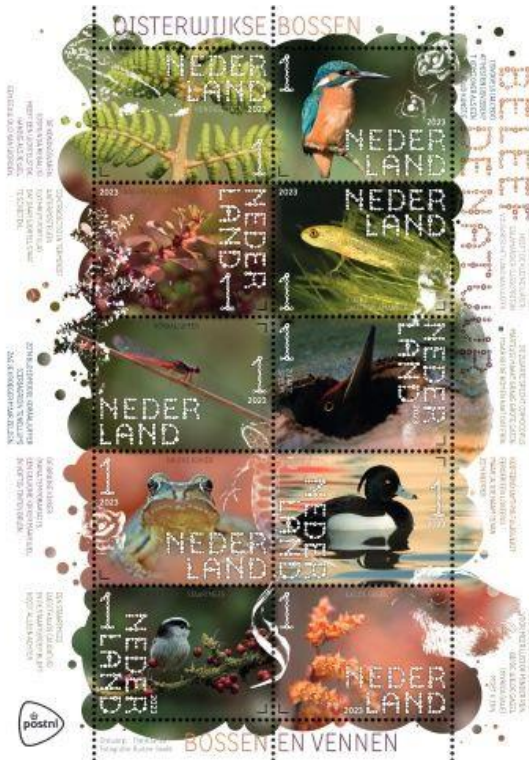


## Recent Issues

### Experience Nature – Oisterwijk Woods and Fens August 14, 2023

The sheet with 10 stamps of different designs devotes attention to the woods and fens, a nature reserve near Oisterwijk, in North Brabant province. The area is owned by ‘Natuurmonumenten’ (Nature monuments) and spans about 450 hectare. It is part of the Van Gogh National Park.

The design is by Frank Janse uit Gouda. Each stamp on the sheet shows one of 10 plants and animals in their natural surroundings.

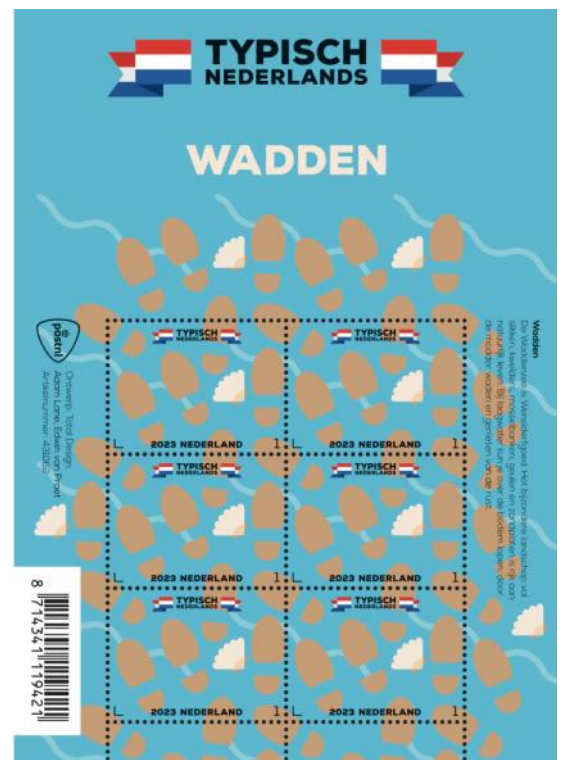


### Typically Dutch - The Wadden Sea August 14, 2023

The word ‘wad’ is derived from the Latin ‘vadum,’ meaning a ‘passable place.’ The Wadden sea is a nature area listed on the World Heritage List of the UNESCO.. Since the beginning of the 20th century is the name Wadden sea used for the northern part of what was then called the ‘Zuiderzee.’

The Wadden sea experience ebb and flood. During low water, it is possible to walk across the bottom of the Wadden sea. The sheet with six stamps shows illustrations of iconic shapes of footprints, composed from the sole and the heel of a shoe. Every stamp shows three complete foot prints.

The design is by senior graphic designer Adam Lane and creative director Edwin van Praet of Total Design from Amsterdam.



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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Netherlands Indies       | <input type="checkbox"/> Color variations         | <input type="checkbox"/> Rep. of Surinam               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Netherlands New Guinea   | <input type="checkbox"/> Stationery and covers    | <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldpost                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surinam                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Revenues and railroads   | <input type="checkbox"/> EO-Philately                  |
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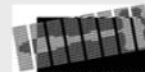


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