

*Dated Journal*

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1308 Pin Oak Drive  
Dickinson, TX 77539-  
USA

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

# Netherlands Philately

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

**Volume 48/3**

**Curaçao & Suriname Special, Volume 1  
1873 – 2023**



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# NETHERLANDS PHILATELY

## Magazine of the American Society for Netherlands Philately; Volume 48/3

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### Editor's Message

January, 2024

Dear Fellow Collectors,

Here is the long awaited Curaçao and Suriname special issue of *Netherlands Philately*. My thanks as guest editor go out to the article authors and to our usual editor Ben for their support of this magazine and our hobby.

How many of you readers knew that the first issue of Curaçao also involves tragic? After the first stamps were printed, they were dispatched on the ship *Sophia and Maria* in late December 1872, leaving from Amsterdam. The ship collided with the steamship *Brittany* (UK) and sank off the island Ouessant, Finistère, France (near the city of Brest) on 27 January 1873. Two crew members were saved by the *Brittany*, but five of the seven on board perished. With the ship also 34.000 stamps of the first issue went down to the bottom of the ocean.

I wish you all a good time of reading the magazine, enjoying the goodies on show, and the information being shared here.

Alex Nuijten, Guest Editor

*[I am extremeley grateful to Alex who solicited the articles presented in this issue. In fact, there is much more than I could cram in here, even after adding 8 pages, and forgoing the 'Recent Issues' section. Thus a second (!) volume will appear in March.*

*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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# The Netherlands Antilles, Early Mail 1697 – 1879.

by Deo van Wijk<sup>†</sup>

**This exhibit** shows primarily letters from the Antilles during the development of the postal service under the Chartered West India Company (**GWC: Geoctroyeerde West-Indische Compagnie**) established in 1621 and beginning with mail service in 1634. The earliest letter in this exhibit is from 1697 under the Chartered West India Company.

Besides a trade monopoly, the GWC contract also guaranteed transport of mail to and from the Netherlands when the Dutch took possession of the area in 1634 until 1791, from 1674 without a postal monopoly. The development of the postal service for Curaçao is displayed with letters arranged in stages from 1697 until 1874:

## Plan of the exhibit:

1. 1697 - 1791 **Geoctroyeerde West-Indische Compagnie**
  - Conveyed by ship opportunity, and Texelse Post
  - via Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Middelburg
  - by ship opportunity to the Netherlands, Europe, Caribbean and North America
2. 1792 - 1795 **Commission for the West Indian Trade 'W.H.'**
3. 1795 - 1806 **The Batavian Republic**, French occupation, disrupted mail contact with the Netherlands
4. 1800 - 1807 **British occupation and blockades**
5. 1807 - 1815 **British occupation** as a result of the Napoleonic War
6. 1816 - 1825 **Office of Government Secretary**, occasional mail service and West Indies Packet boats
7. 1825 - 1833 **Royal Dutch Packet Mail**
8. 1833 - 1845 **Curaçao Postal Administration**
9. 1855 **Ship letter to the Netherlands**
10. 1842 - 1875 **British Royal Mail Steam Packet Company**
11. 1874 - 1879 **HAPAG 1874 - 79**
12. 1852 - 1874 **Mail to USA**
13. 1856 - 1869 **Incoming mail to Curaçao**

**The earliest** recorded letter is from 1697. The letters were free of charge from Curaçao to the Netherlands. When arriving at Texel (port of arriving ships), letters received a 6 stuiver '6 ST. / GWC' postal marking for the journey to the city until 1791. Over the following years only a few postal markings appeared under the changing administrations in Curaçao.

**Rarity** statement's are based on covers in private ownership.

**The first local postmarks** applied in Curaçao were British during the occupation from 1807 - 1815, the **negative** and the **fleuron** marks.

**The first Dutch Curaçao** postal marking was introduced in 1825 by the Netherlands Royal Packet Mail and then followed by other postmarks and cachets used by the administrations in Curaçao.

The Antilles was sent by the packets, through captains or privately conveyed by ships arriving in the Dutch West Indies.

**The expansion of mail** service took a big step forward with the deployment of steam ships and shipping companies began providing scheduled mail services both to Europe and in the Caribbean, occasionally postal service were rendered through by-passing ships.

**The first regular and scheduled mail** service was provided by the British Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RMSPC) from 1842 until 1877.

In 1853 the Dutch consul, J. Cappé, St. Thomas, Danish West Indies was appointed Dutch postal agent in St. Thomas in order to exchange mail with the RMSPC packet service for the correspondence from Curaçao with Europe from 1854, twice a month connecting St. Thomas and Curaçao.

**Maps** has throughout the collection been placed to illustrate the locations from where the mail was sent and received.

Bottom left, on each page, a catalogue reference has been made to Julsen & Benders, Asofilca and FACIT.

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[www.asofilca.com](http://www.asofilca.com), Tiritas de Coro a La Vela y Viceversa, by W. Castillo

*[This exhibit will be presented over multiple issues of "Netherlands Philately," starting with the postal service provided by the Geoctroyeerde West-Indische Compagnie.]*



**Chartered West India Company 1634 - 1791, postal monopoly until 1674**

(Geotroyeerde West-Indische Companie)

Caribbean Sea and  
Dutch West Indies  
Map of 1849



Dutch Leeward Antilles  
Aruba  
Curaçao  
Bonaire



Dutch Leeward Islands

St. Martin  
Saba  
St. Eustatius

**THE EARLIEST RECORDED LETTER FROM CURAÇAO**



1. Middelburg - Rotterdam



2. Rotterdam - Amsterdam



Curaçao 11 January 1697 to Em in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Conveyed by private ship, probably French, to Middelburg, then by Zeeuwse Beurtvaart (Dutch line shipping system for mostly inland navigation) via Rotterdam with final destination Amsterdam. In Amsterdam stamped 'STUY [Coat of arms]' ('Vijf Stuiver' without 'vijf' and 'port') in use from about 1695. The addressee was charged '8' stuiver red crayon, of which 'III' stuiver noted in red crayon for the distance from Middelburg to Rotterdam, without date of reception.

Addressed to Al Sr. Mitio Manuel Levy Duarte Gd Soos md Em Amsterdam, with reception manuscript 'Curasau 1697, Gabr Levy 11 Jan' and 'De Curasao a responder'. Gabriel Levy was a Jewish merchant in Curaçao, born in Amsterdam (about 1650), died on Curaçao 2 September 1725. He owned a plantation and sold goats and sheep to the governor to feed the slaves of the WIC. This letter was sent to his brother Manuel Levy, Amsterdam.

Korteweg 215a



## Amsterdam via Texel

1. Geotroyeerde West-Indische  
Companie 1697 - 1791

Handstamp '6 ST GWC'  
Type 1 and 2



Texel - Amsterdam



Curaçao 26 May 1697 to Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The ships from the West Indies usually arrived at the port on the small island of Texel, from here mail was sent by the company to the 'West Indian House' at the Rapenburg in Amsterdam and received the company 'GWC 6 ST' small handstamp type 2 (1712-1785), **the earliest recorded date**. The postage of 6 stuyver was paid for the journey between Texel and Amsterdam besides the postage was **free of charge from the West Indies**. The few existing handstamps are often indistinct and sharp imprints are rarely seen.



Type 1  
'ST' above  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> stem of W  
Diameter 15 mm



Type 2  
'ST' above  
3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> stem of W  
Diameter 15 mm



Curaçao 21 July 1745 to Amsterdam, the Netherlands. In Amsterdam stamped with the company 'GWC 6 ST' small handstamp type 1 (1712-1785) indicating the postage of 6 stuyver was paid for the journey between Texel and Amsterdam. Sender made a manuscript note with shipping instruction on the cover 'P. 't Schip Juff Josina / Cap. com. d Mey / D.g.B.', departed Curaçao 24 July with a cargo of 45 last (1 last = 2000 kg.) and 30.611 pounds cacao.

Most of the early mail available outside the archives are from the island of Curaçao. Curaçao was used as the collective name of the three southern islands Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire, as well as the northern cluster of the islands of St. Martin, Saba and St. Eustatius.

Juilsen & Benders 2 1





Curaçao to Europe

Curaçao 2 April 1718 to Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Routing instruction in manuscript 'Op de Vrindschap / Capt. Dirk Joncker'. The '6 ST. / GWC' handstamp, type 3 or 4.

The impressions of the '6 ST GWC' handstamps are on most letters diffuse and indistinct as seen on this letter. Arrival date not mentioned on the letter.

**The year 1718 is earliest recorded use of all the four types of '6 ST. / GWC' handstamps**



Curaçao 10 June 1743 to Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Origin manuscript 'C.' (Curaçao) in upper right corner and as was customary a note of shipping 'p. 't Schepde / Eendraagt Cap / F. Bouwman / D.G.G.' departed 11 June 1743 with a cargo of 88 last and 118.925 pounds cacao. At the West Indian House in Amsterdam stamped with a very sharp imprint of '6 ST. / GWC' handstamp type 3. At the beginning of this letter an earlier letter dated 20 May is copied.

In many instances some early letters included a written copy of a previous letter to safeguard the addressee, should that letter have been lost on its way to the Netherlands. A lot of ships sank or were lost to pirates.

Julsen & Benders 3





**ORIGINAL LETTER** from Curaçao dated 17 May 1745 to Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Routing instruction in manuscript '*P het Schip de / Jonge Matthias*', departed 18 May with 48 last and 136.425 pounds cacao. From Texel to the West Indian House in Amsterdam, where it was stamped with the **small handstamp '6 ST. / GWC' type 2**. The addressee 'Jan van Es' had to pay 6 stuiver for the conveyance from Texel to Amsterdam. The original letter was duplicated and sent with another ship to Jan Van Es.

The original four '**6 ST. / GWC**' handstamps are kept in the Postal Museum in the Hague. There are two types of both the small and large '**6 ST. GWC**' handstamps.

In the first of the large types JB 3, the first G ends with a curl, without curl in the other type JB 4

Records show that an amount of 10 gulden for every mailbag was reimbursed for the carriage from Curaçao.

**VERY FEW MATCHING ORIGINAL AND DUPLICATE LETTERS ARE RECORDED**



**Type 3**  
'ST' above and start  
at the 3rd stem of W  
Diameter 20 mm



**DUPLICATED LETTER** with the same date Curaçao 17 May 1745. Manuscript routing instruction '*P. cap: Jacob Stoeten / D.G.G.*' ('Dien God Geleide = whom God may escort'). Upon arrival at the West Indian House in Amsterdam it was stamped '**6 ST. / GWC**' large handstamp type 3. The addressee had to pay 6 stuiver for the conveyance from Texel to Amsterdam.



1. Amsterdam via Texel  
2. Dordrecht via Texel

1. Geotroyeerde West-Indische  
Companie 1697 - 1791

Handstamps '6 ST GWC'  
To Amsterdam - To Dordrecht

Curaçao 16 July 1720 to Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Routing instruction 'P': Cap: Cornelis Otters, / g: d: ge.' departed 16 July from Curaçao. Upon arrival at the West Indian House in Amsterdam, the letter was stamped with the '6 ST. / GWC' handstamp, type 3 or 4.

An inside written note says the letter was received 8 December, a total of 145 days (nearly 5 months) before it finally arrived to the addressee after a long and dangerous crossing of the Atlantic Ocean.



*Tessel verschoten 6 St*



Dordrecht



Curaçao 11 September 1754 to Dordrecht, the Netherlands. Routing instruction 'P'. Schip De Jonge Princesse / Carolina / Cap: Claas Wegenaar / D.D.G'. departed 12 September. Upon arrival at the West Indian House in Amsterdam, stamped with an indistinct small '6 ST. / GWC' type 1 or type 2.

On the back postal manuscript 'Tessel verschoten 6 St.', 4 St. postage from Amsterdam to Dordrecht, rated '10' stuiver due in red crayon. The letter arrived after 149 days (nearly 5 months).

Julsen & Benders no. 3 or 4 - 1 or 2



1. Middelburg via Amsterdam  
2. Amsterdam

1. Geotroyeerde West-Indische  
Companie 1697 - 1791

Dutch Forwarding Agent  
French Packet Service



Curaçao 28 April 1770 to Middelburg, Zeeland, the Netherlands. Routing instruction 'P. t. Slands oorlog Schip / gecommnd. door Dirmelden / gestr. H.r. Pieter van Hoogwerf / D.G.G.' strikethrough by forwarding agent who on the back wrote '**Per Adresse van D.W.Dinaar Ab.m Van Pembroek, Amsterdam, 24 augs 1770**'. In Amsterdam the post office stamped 'AMSTERDAM [Coat of Arms] in black on reverse. Rated '6' stuiver in red crayon was collected by the rural mail carrier for the carriage to Middelburg. Arrived after 188 days..

ONLY RECORDED LETTER FROM CURAÇAO WITH 'COLONIES PAR LA FLOTTE' HANDSTAMP



S. Domingo, Haiti



Île de Ré, Flotte, France



Curaçao 30 September 1777 to Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Routing instruction '**Via frans S. Domingo**' in Haiti sailed with a French packet service operating from 1765 and 1793 to La Flotte, a small port on the island of Île de Ré, near La Rochelle on the French Atlantic Coast. Letters carried with this service received the oval handstamp 'COLONIES PAR LA FLOTTE' 1764-1791 which was stamped on this letter and then forwarded to Amsterdam. Rated '17' stuiver in red crayon due by the addressee. The letter arrived on 5 February 1778.

La Salle 14



1. Tenerife, Canary Islands  
2. Port au Prince, Domingo

1. Geotroyeerde West-Indische  
Companie 1697 - 1791

Maritime Mail 'YSLAS'  
'CAYES' Handstamp



Tenerife, Canary Islands



Curaçao 5 August 1773 to Tenerife, Canary Islands. Maritime mail handstamp 'YSLAS' red ink and probably applied in transit at Cartagena de Indias (now Colombia) or Vera Cruz.

The addressee was charged the single weight rate '1' silver real. 'YSLAS' handstamp is the earliest of only four recorded examples and by far the rarest of the three type of maritime mail markings. Letter restored to prevent it from disintegrating.



Curaçao 21 April 1781 to Port au Prince in the French colony of St. Domingue. 'CAYES' straight line handstamp (recorded 1780-82) when handed in at the Cayes post office, then forwarded at a manuscript rate charge of '4 GROS .2' escalines.



Port au Prince, St. Domingue



1. Rotterdam, the Netherlands  
2. Dundee, Scotland

1. Geotroyeerde West-Indische  
Companie 1697 - 1791

Privately Conveyed  
from St. Eustatius



St. Eustatius

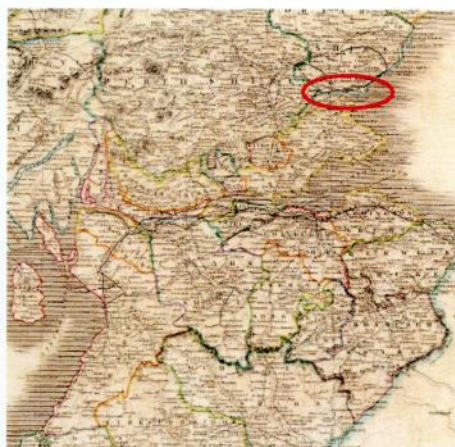


St. Eustatius 21 November 1780 to Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Routing instruction 'P. Capt. J. Rousman / D.G.G' and 'No. 33' which can mean either the number on a letter list or the 33<sup>rd</sup> letter written. Without any postal markings and supposedly privately conveyed by the captain to the recipient in Rotterdam.



St. Eustatius 21 November 1780 to Dundee, Scotland. Without any postal markings and supposedly privately conveyed by the captain or a passenger to the recipient in Dundee.

The sender is writing to the widow of his brother who was a captain.



Dundee, Scotland





St. Eustatius 4 October 1748 to Marseille, France. Stamped D'HOLLANDE' 35 mm, a French handstamp applied when the letter arrived in Paris.

Rate from the Dutch Republic to Paris 1.1.1704 - 31.7.1759 16 sols for one paper sheet plus Paris to Marseille 7 sols = due '23' sols manuscript.



Marseille, France



St. Eustatius 15 October 1758 to Marseille, France. Stamped D'HOLLANDE' 28 mm, a French handstamp applied when the letter arrived in Paris.

Rate from the Dutch Republic to Paris 1.1.1704 - 1.8.1759 - 31.12.1791 20 sols for one paper sheet plus Paris to Marseille 10 sols = due '30' sols manuscript.



1. Puillaurens, France  
2. Pont-Saint Esprit, France

1. Geoctroyeerde West-Indische  
Compagnie 1697 - 1791

Privately Conveyed Mail  
from St. Eustatius



Puillaurens, Haut Languedoc, France

St. Eustatius 28 February 1781 to Puillaurens, Haut Languedoc, France.  
Routing instruction in manuscript 'par Toulouse' and rate note '8' sols due.  
Stamped with a Bordeaux circular mark with lily and letter B of Bordeaux.  
The letter is written onboard the French frigate 'La Libelle'.



Pont-Saint Esprit, Languedoc, France



Curaçao 12 February 1783 to Pont-Saint Esprit, Languedoc, France.  
This letter was privately conveyed to a port in France, maybe Bordeaux  
where it was posted. A postal due charge in manuscript was applied on the  
front of the letter.

The contents among others, describes how letters arrived from Boston 'The  
winds have not been favorable. After anchoring two days near Puerto Rico  
we sailed to Santo Domingo. We hope to meet the other ships at Puerto  
Cabello'.



1. New York, USA  
2. Newport, USA

1. Geotroyeerde West-Indische  
Compagnie 1697 - 1791

Conveyed by Captain's Mail  
From St. Eustatius



St. Eustatius 23 August 1741 to New York, NY, USA. Without any postal notes or markings.  
Routing instruction 'P: Cap: Langdon / W. G. L.'

New York, NY, USA



Newport, Rhode Islands  
USA

St. Eustatius 24 December 1772 to Newport, Rhode Islands, USA. Without any postal notes or markings.  
Routing instruction 'P: favour of / Mr. Green Q.D.C.'

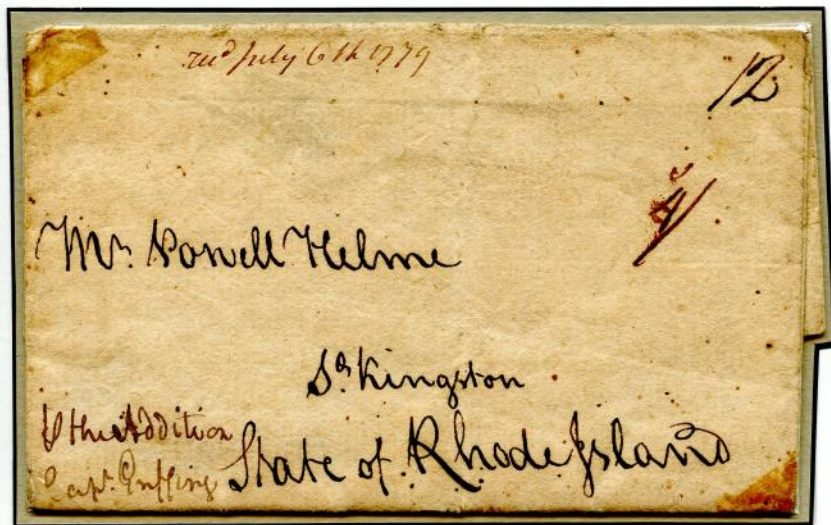
During the 18th century St. Eustatius was an important port, which enjoyed a boom during the American War of Independence (1775 - 1783) as it became an important supply link to the rebels until it was sacked in retaliation by the British navy in 1780. This was the end of its commercial importance.



1. Kingston, USA  
2. Norwich, USA

1. Geootroyeerde West-Indische  
Companie 1697 - 1791

Conveyed by Captain's Mail  
From St. Eustatius



Kingston, Rhode Islands, USA

St. Eustatius 20 May 1779 to Kingston, Rhode Island, USA. Endorsed with captain's name and reception note 'rcv', July 6th 1779'.

At arrival rated '12' centimes and '4' pence, possible as an advanced payment to the captain.

In the letter we can read "... the English, French and American Privateers are very busy among the islands, but the French and English Fleets do not appear inclined to come to action being careful to keep out of the way of each other..."



Norwich, Connecticut, USA

St. Eustatius 27 November 1787 to Norwich, Connecticut, USA, via Boston. Routing instruction 'By Ship Russell / Capt. Holland / Nubery---'. Arriving in Boston, postmarked straight line 'BOSTON' RL type P23 and colonial bishop mark '20 / 1A' both in black ink.

A total due of '216' cents by addressee.



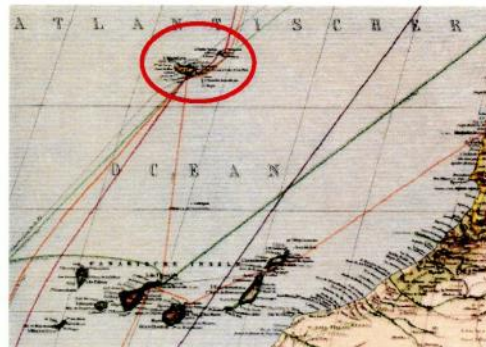
1. Madeira
2. Madeira via Amsterdam

1. Geotroyeerde West-Indische  
Companie 1697 - 1791

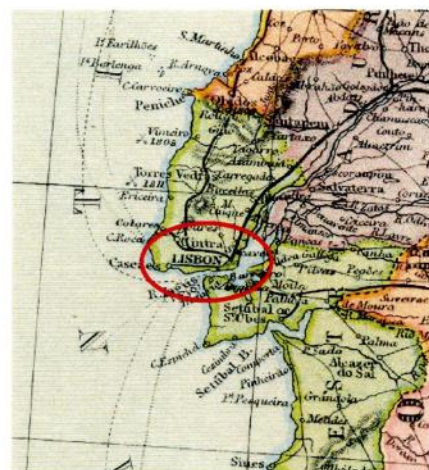
1. Privately Conveyed Mail
2. Forwarding Agent



St. Eustatius 1 August 1766 to Madeira, received 23 December 1766. Without any postal notes or markings. On page 2 and 3 inside the letter a previous letter from 7 February 1766 has been copied that were written to Newton & Gordon, Madeira. Privately conveyed to Madeira, a journey of a total of 144 days.



Madeira, Atlantic Ocean



Lisbon, Portugal



St. Eustatius 12 February 1780 to Madeira, via Amsterdam. Privately conveyed to Amsterdam with forwarding agents manuscript 'Amsterdam le 10 Avril 1780, Par adresse de KGH fr. Eymaills' and Lisbon forwarding agents manuscript 'Lisbonne 8 Juin 1780. P. Add<sup>re</sup> d Mr. Rattun Daupiasse' and a archival note that the letter was received on 5th July 1780. Inside there is also a duplicate of a previous letter dated 4 September 1779.



# WW II Curaçao and Aruba Censor Markings Updated.

*by Richard Bennink*

To my knowledge there have been only three published works describing the censorship processes in Curacao and Aruba, two involving Frank Julsen. His first article, published in 1952, and his massive postal history, co-authored with A. M. Benders, in 1976. J. DeKruyf wrote an article about Aruba censorship in 1952. This article seeks to expand our knowledge of the dates of the various markings as well as to introduce previously unknown markings.

The expectation of a need for censorship began in January, 1940. A law was announced on January 25 which established the process and was further elucidated on May 10, five days after the German army invaded The Netherlands. The name “Curacao” refers both to the largest of three islands off the coast of Venezuela as well and the three Windward islands, which later were all together called The Netherlands Antilles. Censorship ended August 18, 1945.

Ostensibly there were two reasons for censorship. First, the largest oil refinery in the Caribbean was located on Aruba. Second, there were German citizens residing on the islands as well as members of a Dutch political party with sympathies for the Nazi movement. The Julsen & Benders work provides extensive information on the various offices as well as the internment camp located on Bonaire. In addition, there was a Royal Netherlands Navy and a US Navy presence in the area which served as escorts for oil tankers and conducted surveillance on German U-boats.

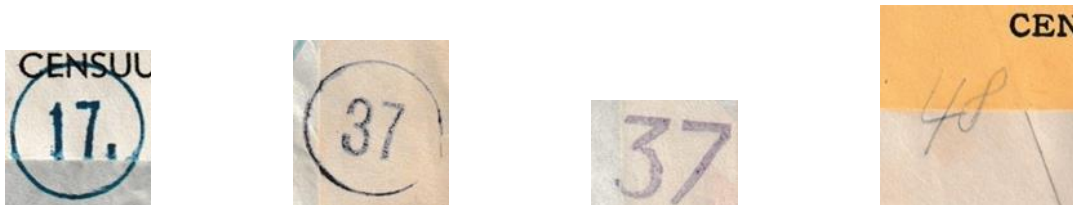
The censors had three options: first, after a review of the sender and recipient the item could be passed unopened; second, the item could be opened, examined and resealed; third, if opened and resealed, a mark with a cipher or a handwritten cipher identifying the person who examined that item was applied.

## Censor Date Markings

Unlike Suriname, there was no special date marking when the censoring occurred. Often, but not always, there was the normal cancellation device applied when a letter was opened and it always appears on the back.

## Censor Identification Numbers

These are always ciphers which appear in four forms: stamped number in a circle followed by a period; stamped number in a circle without a period; stamped number with no circle; and a handwritten number (Figure 1).



*Figure 1: The four types of censor identification numbers.*

The predominate colors were violet and blue. Red was used in the early years. Black/grey was used rarely. Handstamped ID numbers in a circle with a period from 1-26 tend to be from Willemstad, Curacao, and above 26 from Oranjestad, Aruba. Handwritten numbers between 47 and 60 are from Willemstad and from 31 to 44 are from Oranjestad. Willemstad and Oranjestad are the only known locations to have had censorship offices. Mail from and to the other four islands were serviced by air several times a week and probably were censored in Willemstad.



Summary of used numbers:

Within a circle, followed by period: 1-11, 13-21, 23, 25-30.

Within a circle, no period: 10, 11, 14, 16, 18, 19, 22, 26, 28, 30-33, 35-45, 50.

Number without a circle: 31, 33, 35-44, 47, 49-51, 54, 55, 58-60.

Handwritten numbers: 5, 8, 12, 31, 32, 35-49, 52, 54, 55, 60.

## Unopened Mail Handstamps

Used for mail that was passed without being opened in both Curacao and Aruba. The earliest dates known (EDK) and latest dates (LDK) are shown with the following key: **bold** type means that this is from the Julsen & Bender book; underlined type means it is from my collection; an asterisk\* means it has been seen either by other collectors or in an auction.

H-1 large circle

EDK: **24.08.40**

LDK: 04.06.43

Diameter is 38 mm.

Originally used on postal cards and unsealed matter.

Julsen & Benders LDK is on mail from a POW card.



H-2 small circle

EDK: 03.12.40

LDK: 09.07.45

Diameter is 23 mm.

Used for over four years and by far the most common censor marking suggesting that much of the mail from all six islands was passed unopened.



A sub-type exists known as the slash variety in which there is a slash through the "N" on CENSUUR suggesting a flaw in the matrix.

EDK: 10.09.41

LDK: 23.05.44



H-3 triangle

EDK: 10.9.41

LDK: 13.05.44

Length of base is 57 mm.

This triangular type gives a clearer message that the envelop was not opened. It was used simultaneously with the previous two markings.



H-4a (Curacao)

EDK: 22.02.44

LDK: 16.08.45

Double circles: 25 mm diameter.





H-4b (Aruba)  
EDK: **18.12.44**  
LDK: **23.07.45**



H-5 large double circle with shield  
EDK: 16.08.44  
LDK: **16.12.44**  
Diameter: 45 mm  
Julsen & Benders describe this as very scarce; used briefly at the same time as the previous type.



H-6  
29 mm in length.  
Only one copy is known: **07.06.44**  
Censors had the option of returning the letter to the sender, which of course means that when used in this manner the envelope would probably be destroyed.  
Translation: "Refused by Censor."

**GEWEIGERD  
DOOR CENSUUR**

The following markings, while technically not related to censorship, do fill out the list of WW II markings of Curacao.

H-7  
EDK: **08.08.40**  
LDK: 18.04.42  
Length: 41 mm  
A very scarce mark from the only known Internment camp in Curacao on the island of Bonaire.

**INTERNEERINGSKAMP  
BONAIRE.**

H-8  
EDK: **07.01.42**  
LDK: **07.??.45**  
Royal Netherlands Navy censor mark.  
Length: Dutch inscription, 45 mm;  
English inscription, 60 mm.



H-9  
EDK: ??.01.43  
LDK: 05.06.45  
Royal Navy Censored mark with initials of censor, diameter 44 mm.  
Not listed in Julsen & Benders but in private correspondence with me Julsen wrote that he had found one cover from 1943.





H-10  
 U.S. Navy Censor Curacao, NWI.  
 Top line, 32 mm; bottom line, 43 mm.  
 Julsen & Benders list one cover from 1942, mine is dated 09.05.42 (Figure 2). Both have the return address of U.S. Naval Observer, Fort Amsterdam, Curacao, and are marked "Via Maracaibo."

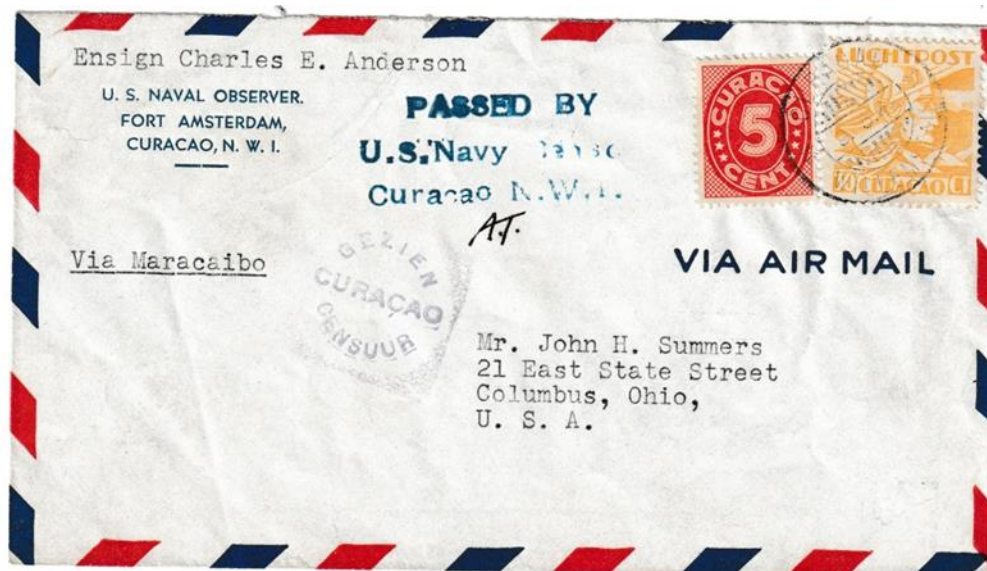


Figure 2: Cover dated 09.05.42, mailed from Willemstad, Curacao.

### Resealing Labels (LC-Label Curacao)

LC-1a wide spacing  
 EDK: **03.07.40**  
 LDK: 05.10.40  
 Top line: 54 mm and bottom line: 35 mm.  
 Space between lines: 5 mm.



LC- 1b narrow spacing  
 EDK: 29.06.40  
 LDK: 13.12.41  
 Top line: 48 mm and bottom line: 33 mm.



LC-2a new style with coat of arms and a cedilla under the second C of Curacao.  
 EDK: 16.07.41\*  
 LDK: 04.05.42  
 Top line: 34.5 mm and bottom line: 47 mm.





LC-2b without a cedilla

EDK: 12.07.41

LDK: **27.4.42**



LC-3a with condensed letters, white paper and cedilla

EDK: **11.02.42**

LDK: **04.08.43**

Top line: 35.5 mm and bottom line: 47 mm

Space between lines: 5.5 mm



LC-3b yellow paper and cedilla

EDK: 06.06.42

LDK: 10.03.43\*



LC-3c white paper and no cedilla

EDK: **12.02.42**

LDK: 21.08.42

LC-3d yellow paper and no cedilla

EDK: 19.09.42

LDK: 20.02.43

LC-4a light face on type with cedilla

Top line: 36 mm bottom line: 47 mm

Space between lines: 3 mm

EDK: **03.03.43**

LDK: 10.09.43



LC-4b light face on type without cedilla

EDK: **10.03.43**

LDK: **15.11.43**

Space between lines: 3 mm





LC-4c bold face on type with cedilla.

EDK: 17.05.43

LDK: 20.07.43

Space between lines: 5mm.

LC-4d bold face on type without cedilla.

EDK: **06.05.43**

LDK: 15.04.44

Space between lines: 5 mm.



It can be difficult to determine the differences between these last four and the previous four marks, especially when only looking at the type face. The measurements help. All varieties exist only on white paper. Some letters which appear broken are due to poor inking.

LC-5a two different type faces; top line: serif; buff paper.

EDK: 08.11.43

LDK: 18.03.44

Top line: serif type face; bottom line: Roman.

Both types have the cedilla.

Top line: 34.5 mm Bottom line: 47 mm.

Space between lines: 2.5 to 3 mm.



LC-5b yellow paper.

EDK: 16.11.43

LDK: **25.02.44**

LC-6 white paper.

EDK: **16.04.44**

LDK: 12.09.44

Letters set closely together.

Top line: 26.5 mm; bottom line 42 mm.



LC-7a white paper with cedilla.

LDK: **10.08.45**

EDK: 09.09.44

Large serif type face.

Top line: 40 mm; bottom line: 50 mm.



LC-7b white paper without cedilla.

EDK: **09.02.44**

LDK: 02.08.45





## Resealing Label (LA-Label Aruba)

In early 1943 resealing labels were introduced in Oranjestad, Aruba, which replaced “Curacao” with “Aruba” and are found only on white paper.

LA-1 the only label with “N.W.I.” (Netherlands West Indies).

EDK: 19.01.43

LDK: 08.11.43

Top line: 36 mm; bottom line: 54 mm.



LA-2 “N.W.I.” omitted.

EDK: **09.08.43**

LDK: **04.11.44**



LA-3: Large shield.

EDK: 18.12.43

LDK: 11.04.44\*

Shield: 20.5 at base.

Top line: 34.5 mm; bottom line: 41.5 mm.



LA-4a Small shield.

EDK: 14.12.43

LDK: **20.11.44**

Space below shield: 3 mm.

Top line: 34.5 mm; bottom line: 41.5 mm.

First “E” of “GEOPEND” directly over the “N” of “CENSUUR”.



LA-4b

EDK: 13.12.43

LDK: 13.07.44

Space below shield: 5 mm.

Top line: 35 mm; bottom line: 42.5 mm.

First “E” of “GEOPEND” directly over the “N” of “CENSUUR”.



LA-4c

EDK: 15.12.43

LDK: 06.04.45\*

Same measurements as LA-4b.

First "E" of GEOPEND" shifted to the right of "N" of "CENSUUR".



LA-5a

EDK: **14.04.44**

LDK: 13.02.45

Top line: 35.5 mm; bottom line: 45 mm.



LA-5b

EDK: 30.05.44

LDK: 06.04.45\*

Slightly slanting shield and "broken" top of first "E" in "GEOPEND".



LA-6

EDK: **23.01.45**

LDK: **17.8.45**

Same format as Willemstad label LC-7.

Top line: 40.5 mm; bottom line: 45 mm.



## Resealing Label (LN- Label Navy)

LN-1

Date: **02.09.41**

Julsen reported a Netherlands Navy resealing label and indicated he has only seen one copy.

White paper. Top line: 73 mm; bottom line: 80 mm.



As Frank Julsen advised me when I began to collect this material in 1970 "Whenever you publish dates there is always a good possibility someone has an earlier or later copy." The author invites you to contact him if you have additional dates and/or types so that we might continue to update.

## References

Julsen, Frank. "WW II Censor Markings: Curacao," *Netherlands and Colonies Philatelist*, 1952, pp. 37-46.

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## Unusual Overprint.

*by George Cvejanovich*

The early stamps of many colonies tended to be the stamp of the colonial power ("mother country") overprinted with the name of the colony. However, it is very rare to find the reverse: the stamp of a colony overprinted with the name of the colonial power. The Netherlands 1950 postal envelope (Geuzendam #31) is one such example. The 1936 Curaçao 6-cent postal envelope (Geuzendam #26) was overprinted "Nederland 10 cent" in 1950. Below are scans of both mint and postally used examples of the overprint. The reason for this unusual occurrence was a paper shortage in the Netherlands resulting from World War II.

The Netherlands authorities decided to inquire if there was surplus postal stationery in their various colonies. In Curaçao there was a surplus of the 1936 envelope. Also, since Curaçao became the Netherlands Antilles in 1948 and used the new name on new stamp issues, demand for the 1936 envelope was limited. Thus, the Netherlands Postal Administration (PTT) purchased the surplus from Curaçao (Netherlands Antilles) in 1949 and overprinted the envelopes as shown below. The earliest known usage is February 27, 1950, and the envelope was withdrawn from use January 1, 1954.





## References

- Geuzendam's Catalogus van de postwaardestukken van Nederland en Overzeese Rijksdelen (Van Dieten, The Hague) 1980.
- Holstege, G. Handboek Postwaarden Nederland (Bohn Stafleu Van Loghum, Houten/Zaventem) 1994.
- Julsen, F.W. A Postal History of Curaçao (Van Dieten, The Hague) 1976.



# The Curaçao Krijgsgevangenen Overprints of 1943.

by Franklin Ennik

Despite the statement and desire to remain neutral, the Netherlands was invaded by German military forces on May 10, 1940. At the same time German forces also invaded Belgium, Luxembourg, and France. The Dutch military capitulated after five days resistance while the Royal family and high-level government staff escaped to England for the duration of the War.

Captured Dutch prisoners of war were transported to Germany. Interned soldiers of the so-called Germanic countries, i.e. Netherlands, Denmark, Norway and the Flemish Belgians were released (demobilized) during the early weeks of the occupation. Hitler reasoned and hoped to win the hearts and minds of the peoples the Nazis thought of as being racially related. Only 20,000 of the 300,000 mobilized Dutch soldiers were taken to Germany in May 1940. All were released during the first weeks of June 1940 and were told to go home provided they promised not to participate in further belligerent activity against the Third Reich.

My brother, **Henk Ennik**, was included in this call-up order. He was also told to go home and he resumed his employment as an electrical engineer with the Telephone Division of PTT thereby avoided having to respond to the several internment orders of the Wehrmacht.

The German Wehrmacht made use of forced labor battalions and POW inmates from the countries they overran to construct, maintain, and work in the many war materiel factories and military facilities of their war machine. They realized early that they could also utilize former Dutch military forces for this purpose and sent out Announcements in the spring of 1942 ordering the former *professional* military forces to report for internment like the one shown in Figure 1.

These Announcements were expanded in April 1943 to *all members of the conscripted military* must report to the military barracks. In response, nationwide strikes broke out but it was made clear that those who did not comply would suffer military courts martial and be sent to the forced labor camps.

Internees were advised to bring identification cards and military records, their uniforms and civilian clothes, woolen blankets, extra shoes, and cookware/eating utensils. Those already employed in critical jobs in the Netherlands could be exempt but must provide documentation. Shown in Figure 2 is just one example of the many broadsides that appeared in the Dutch press. Each of these broadsides in 1943 targeted specific Dutch military units that must report on specific days.

Most of these internees were sent to one of the largest POW camps, Stalag IV-B, located near the town of Mühlburg, north of the Elbe River in the state of Brandenburg, Germany.

**TWEEDE VERPLICHTE BIJEENKOMST**  
ter contrôle van de voormalige Nederl. Weermacht

1. Verplicht tot aanmelding zijn alle:

a) **beroepsofficieren, cadetten en adelborsten** van de voormalige Nederlandsche Land- en Zeemacht, die op 10 Mei 1940 in actieven dienst waren.

b) **beroepsofficieren** van het voormalige **Nederlandsche koloniale leger** tot en met den leeftijd van 55 jaar.

2. Op 15 Mei 1942, 14 uur precies moet de tot aanmelding verplichte persoonlijk opkomen, overeenkomstig de volgende lijst:

IN DE PROVINCIËS:	VERPLICHTE BIJEENKOMST TE:
Groningen Friesland Overijssel Drenthe	ASSEN, Friesland-Kazerne, (Wilhelmina-Kazerne) Drentsche Hooftvaartstraat 153
Gelderland Utrecht	EDE, Maurits-kazerne, (Infanterie-kazerne) Stationsweg
Noord-Holland	BUSSUM, v. d. Palmkazerne, Amersfoortsche Straatweg
Zuid-Holland Zeeland	BREDA, Chasse-Kazerne, Vier Windenstraat 4
Noord-Brabant Limburg	ROERMOND, Ernst Kasimir-kazerne

3. Ieder tot aanmelding verplichte moet medebrengen:

a) een wettelijk legitimatiebewijs (persoonsbewijs, zakboekje, militaire documenten, enz.)

b) twee foto's van recenten datum in burger of in uniform, opgeplakt op twee vellen papier (formaat DIN), die met de volgende gegevens moeten worden ingevuld:

Familienaam:	Lochte legersdeeling:	Inzake in kladkassen of met schriftelijke
Alle voornamen:	Tegenwoordig beroep:	
Geburtsplaats:	Arbeidsplaats en/of werkgever:	
Geburtsdatum:	Tegenwoordig adres:	
Gehuwd, ongehuwd, gescheiden:	Woonplaats:	Straat: _____
Lochte militaire rang:		Handtekening _____

4. Niet verschijnen heeft onmiddellijk strafmaatregelen ten gevolge.

9 Mei 1942. *Der Wehrmachtbefehlshaber in den Niederlanden*  
Fr. CHRISTIANSEN  
General der Flieger.

Publicatie toegestaan door het Rijksministerie van Oorlog - Plakkaat Nr. 78.

Figure 1: Announcement issued by German Wehrmacht in May 1942.





Figure 2: Announcement in the Dutch newspaper Dagblad voor Noord-Holland, May 26, 1943.

At first it was thought (and there were rumors) that the Germans were worried that the idle Dutch military would hook up with the Allies in the event of an invasion from across the English Channel. But this was not the case.....the German war machine needed a young, able bodied labor force, according to the German High Command.

In response, the Dutch government, in exile in London, authorized and revalued a four-stamp set of high denomination 1942 Curaçao airmail stamps with the overprint **Voor Krijgsgevangenen** and a hefty surcharge to benefit the Dutch Red Cross (Figure 3). The overprint means *For (the Dutch) prisoners of war*.



Figure 3: Overprinted airmail stamps.

Princess Juliana made an official good-will tour of the Dutch West Indies in March 1944. The notice about her visit to the Islands appeared in the Curaçao newspaper, *Amigoe di Curaçao* on March 7, 1944 (Figure 4). Translated, the notice says in effect:

*His Excellency the Governor has handed over a check to Her Royal Highness Princess Juliana being the proceeds of the surcharge from the special stamps for Prisoners of War with the request that the amount be spent on sending packages to Dutch prisoners of war. Her Royal Highness was very moved by this expression of Curaçao's compassion and requested the Governor convey her special thanks to Curaçao.*

There was a print-run of 20,000 sets of these stamps and they all sold out. The extraordinary demand for this issue mostly originated in the United States.....so much so that the stamps were sold by subscription, with each subscriber receiving only 23% of their order. Appeals and requests to increase the print-run to accommodate the demand went unanswered by the Curaçao Postal Authority. Consequently, these stamps were not available to the public at Antillean Post Offices.



Figure 4: Notice in a Curaçao newspaper on March 7, 1944.



Issued December 1, 1943, this set of stamps was valid for postal use until December 31, 1945.

Note that on every sheet there is a stamp with the overprint error: **krlligs** (an **l** instead of lower case **i**) (see Figure 5 and *NVPH Speciale Catalogus LP41fa--LP44fa*).

Note also that on the sheet *40 + 50 cent op l.40 gld. violet en olijfgrijs* there is another print error **LP41fb** where the capital **V** and **K** are of a different font with serifs (Figure 6).



Figure 5: Overprint error: **krlligs** instead of **krijgs**.



Figure 6: Overprint error: capitals **V** and **K** in serif font.

There are several additional print errors found in these overprints having to do with damaged type used to make the overprints, namely the 'r' and 'g'.

This article also appeared in *Netherlands Philatelists of California Newsletter*. 2015—12.

## References and Sources

*NVPH Speciale Catalogus* 2010. Bladz.554.

Frank W. Julsen and A.M. Benders. *A Postal History of Curaçao*. Van Dieten. 1976.

Website: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stalag\\_IV--B](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stalag_IV--B).

Website: [www.anton.gewoonthuis.nl/](http://www.anton.gewoonthuis.nl/)

Numerous internet links with the words: Krijgsgevangenen 1942 -- 1945

**See Also:** The language of the International Treaty: *Regulations concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land*. The Hague, 18 October 1907. This was the document that governed the treatment of WW I and WW II prisoners of war and which European imperial powers and the United States had signed.

# 1892 Postal rates of Surinam.

*by Hans Kremer*

To understand the different rates it is important to know the difference between zeepost (seamail) and landmail.

Zeepost (Seamail): The letter is transported entirely over the sea, directly to its destination.

Landmail: The letter traveled partially by sea, partially over land to its destination.

## Postal rates within Surinam:

**Letters** up to 15 grams 5 cent; 15 – 50 grams 10 cent; 50-100 grams 15 cent.

**Postal Cards** 2 ½ cent; with reply card 5 cent. **Printed Matter** 1 cent per 25 grams.

## Postal rates to 'Foreign' Countries:

A: To the Netherlands and Curaçao direct with the K.W.I.M ships (zeepost).

**Letters** 10 cent per 15 grams. **Postal Cards** 5 cent; with reply card 10 cents. **Printed Matter** 2 cent per 50 grams.

B: To the Netherlands via Havre, St. Nazaire, and Plymouth, as well as Curaçao with the English and French mails (landmail).

**Letters** 15 cent per 15 grams. **Postal Cards** 7 ½ cent; with reply card 15 cent. **Printed Matter** 2 ½ cent per 50 grams.

C: To Demerara and Cayenne.

**Letters** 12 ½ cent per 15 grams. **Postal Cards** 5 cent; with reply card 10 cent. **Printed Matter** 2 cent per 50 grams.

D: To all other countries.

**Letters** 25 cent per 15 grams. **Postal Cards** 7 ½ cent; with reply card 15 cent. **Printed Matter** 5 cent per 50 grams.

Figure 1 through 6 show examples of covers with various postal rates. Some are from my own collection others are eBay scans.



Figure 1: The two 2 1/2 cent stamps reflect the correct 5 cent rate for the Suriname inland letter rate in 1892.





Figure 2: Five cent is the correct rate in 1892 for 'zeepost' (seamail) postal cards to the Netherlands. Notice the "Ned.W.Indie/ Stoomschepen/Rechtstreeks" marker. Rechtstreeks means direct.



Figure 3: July 1892. 7 1/2 cent is the correct postal rate for landmail (Suriname via Plymouth) of a postal card to the Netherlands.



Figure 4: December 1892. 7 1/2 cent is the correct rate for a postal card to Germany, via Plymouth.



Figure 5: August 1892. Five cent is the correct rate for a postal card to Georgetown, Demerara



Figure 6: January 1892. 25 cent is the correct rate for a letter to Germany, via Havre.

## Reference

Surinaamsche Almanak voor het Jaar 1892 (1891)



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