

# Netherlands first semi-postal stamps

The Netherlands became one of the first countries to issue semi-postal stamps when it issued a set of three stamps to raise money for the Amsterdam Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. These stamps, unlike most semi-postal issues that have followed them, do not have the amount of money each stamp provides to the charity shown on the stamps. They merely had the value that the stamp would have as postage inscribed on them, but when they were sold they cost double that value. They came in denominations of 1, 3 & 5 cents.

These stamps were designed by Prof. A. J. der Kinderen and engraved by H. Raeder. The design incorporates four symbols which represent the four current means of combating the disease at that time which were light, air, water and food. They were printed by J. Enschede & Sons on unwatermarked paper and perforated 1 1/2. They were printed in sheets of 100 stamps containing 20 rows of 5 stamps. There were one million copies of each denomination printed.

These stamps were put on sale on December 21, 1906 at special windows in Amsterdam but two days later the demand caused them to also be sold at the regular windows. And they were distributed to other cities for sale as well. They were only sold for a brief 14 day period until being withdrawn on January 3, 1907. After that the copies already sold were considered to be valid for postage until January 31, 1907, after which they could no longer be used. During the time they were on sale there were 400,000 1 cent, 180,000 3 cent and 230,000 5 cent stamps sold. The Amsterdam Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis received 22,315.20 1/2 guilders from the sale of these stamps.



The elements of the design consist of the Netherlands coat of arms surrounded by symbols representing the four current means of treatment known for tuberculosis at that time. The Sun stands for light, the fountain stands for water, the bird stands for air, and the wheat stalk stands for food. The design also contains the name of the beneficiary "AMSTERDAMSCHER VEREENIGING TOTBESTRUDING DER TUBERCULOSE", the denomination of the stamp and the month and year -- DEC 1906.

## The three stamps.



## First day of Issue

Actual first day of issue – December 21, 1906 (21 DEC 06)

First day of general issue, December 23, 1906



## The 42 days of valid use

The stamps were sold (officially) for 14 days until withdrawn on January 3, 1907. After that they were valid for postal use until January 31, 1907, only another 28 days. The stamps mounted below were used during the official period of usage.



## Stamps used in other places

Although these stamps were issued to benefit the "Amsterdam" Society for the prevention of Tuberculosis they were also used in other cities as well.



## A last day cover.

Most philatelists are very familiar with First Day Covers. This type of cover is less well known and much less collected. It has a set of the three stamps on it and is cancelled 31 1 07 11 - 12N which translates to January 31, 1907 in the 11 - 12 PM time frame and was therefore used during the last hour that the stamps were valid for use.



## The remainders

As was said earlier, one million copies of each denomination were printed. When they were withdrawn on January 3, 1907 the quantities sold were 400,000 of the 1 cent, 180,000 of the 3 cent, and 230,000 of the 5 cent. That left over half of the copies that had been printed still in the post offices. They would no longer be sold and were therefore surplus. As is a normal custom for the Netherlands, these stamps were to be demonetized soon after that, and the date was set at January 31, 1907. So then only 28 days after they had been on sale at the post offices they would become invalid for postal use.

Then there was the matter of what to do with the rather large remaining stock of these stamps. They had been demonetized so they were now invalid for postage and so had no real intrinsic value. They were turned over to the Tuberculosis society for them to use for whatever additional fund-raising purposes that they could. It was directed that before they would sell them they were to be cancelled using an Amsterdam cancel dated at the time of demonetization. The cancel that was to be used was the large double circle cancel of Amsterdam with the date-time stamp of 31 JAN 07 10-12N. When they were properly cancelled they were sold to stamp dealers. This accounts for the fact that to this day these CTO remainders are quite common stamps. At the same time genuine postally used copies are considerably harder to find.

These remainder stamps are normally found with full gum intact. This CTO canceling job was no small task. The total count unsold was reported as 2,190,000. These stamps were canceled with considerable care such that most of these remainders have a well struck, socked on the nose cancel. That's a lot of strokes of a handstamp!

# The remainders, canceled AMSTERDAM 31 JAN 07 10-12N



## There is still more to the story

The remaindering process was not completed flawlessly. Below are two cases of remaindering that was done not quite in the prescribed manner.

### On at least one occasion the wrong ink was used.

The remaindering cancels were to be struck in black ink, but on at least one day violet ink was used. These violet cancels do have the proper January 31, 1907 date and time so it cannot be determined when this happened, or if it happened more than once.



### And once the current date was used instead of January 31

These copies are cancelled using the date of April 17, 1907

Time period 1 - 2N



Time period 2 - 3N

