

Netherlands Point Cancels – Synopsis of Exhibit

History of exhibit

An eight-frame version of this exhibit received a Large Vermeil at Chicagopex 2023 (83 pts.). Reduced to five frames to focus on just the cancels themselves, it was entered at Saint Louis Stamp Expo 2026 where it again received a Large Vermeil (84 pts.). Following the advice of those judges, further changes in organization and formatting have been made to present the material in a clearer and more logical manner.

Treatment and importance

This exhibit presents a comprehensive review of Netherlands point cancels and their various uses and misuses. Introduced to solve problems with tracking mail and with the illegal re-use of postage stamps, these were the most important Dutch cancels of the nineteenth century, used as the primary obliteration cancel from 1 April 1869 to 14 June 1893 – more than twice as long as any other Dutch cancel of that century.

The first three frames introduce the cancels and follow them through their distribution to the various offices that received them. The remainder of the exhibit shows the ways in which the cancels were used and misused and concludes with a last day of use, an example the cancel which replaced them dated on the first day following their withdrawal, and an epilogue showing improper later uses. **Examples of every point cancel are displayed.**

Subject knowledge, personal study, and research

Exhibitor has studied these cancels for more than 40 years. To facilitate this, exhibitor spent three years studying Dutch – not his native language – to thoroughly understand the available research materials. Through contacts in the Netherlands, he gained access to the private archives of the Dutch Postal Museum in The Hague, where he reviewed and copied historical records and took photos of the closely guarded cancelling devices.

Exhibitor's contribution to research escalated when in 2007 he met Harrie Jans, the foremost authority on these cancels. Exhibitor collaborated with Harrie on his gold-medal-winning book, *Nederlandse Puntstempels*, published in 2016, and on his second edition, published in 2026. During this period, exhibitor shared his research notes and thoughts with Harrie and supplied him with many hundreds of scans of stamps and covers. Harrie, the keeper of the census of cancels, included more than one hundred of the scans, or text references to them, in one or both editions of his book, thus increasing our knowledge and understanding of the cancels. The 58 examples of these scanned stamps and covers incorporated into this exhibit are identified in the caption under the item with (Jans).

This contribution to the subject is summed up in the inscription in exhibitor's copy of Harrie Jans's first edition. "For my friend John, for all your inspirations, ideas and images which enabled me to write this book. Harrie."

Four pages of the exhibit illustrating misuses as forwarding or receiving marks are based on the exhibitor's original research and represent the only comprehensive treatment of that subject yet published. See *Netherlands Philately*, the magazine of the ASNP (APS Affiliate #60), Vol. 41, No. 1, September 2016.

Challenge, difficulty of acquisition, and condition

It has taken 40 years to amass the underlying collection, which contains more one-of-a-kind or very rare items than any other extant collection of these cancels. In this exhibit, only items for which four or fewer examples are known are marked rare with a blue border. Statements of the known number of examples are from personal knowledge, auction house records, Harrie Jans's books, or ongoing discussions with Harrie.

Locating the scarcer items – many of which rarely come on the market – involved not only keeping track of auctions and bourses in the Netherlands but also searching online and through the collections of individuals, some of whom required strong inducement to part with their precious items. With the most recent acquisition this summer, one of the two known point cancel covers from Kamp bij Rijen, **this exhibit becomes the first ever to show point cancel covers from four of the five temporary military camps from which such covers are known.**

Because of the breadth of the underlying collection (more than 4,000 combinations of cancels on different stamps), exhibitor has been able to ameliorate the monotony of showing one town after another by including many cancels on issues and denominations on which they are harder to find than on the common 5-cent blues.

Exhibitor has endeavored to acquire examples in the best condition possible, replacing material when a better example comes on the market. However, for very rare or one-of-a-kind items, the condition is what it is.

Selected Highlights

- Two of three known examples of a first day of use of a point cancel, 1 April 1869. [pp. 1, 12]
- 155 Kamp bij De Bildt cover (only example known) [p. 26]
- 147 Kamp bij Laren on 1881 postage due pair (only example known on this issue) [p. 28]
- 159 Kamp bij Rijen on 1870 postage due (only example known on this issue) [p. 28]
- 159 Kamp bij Rijen cover (2 known) [p. 28]
- Only known first day of use of #21 at Emmen [p. 39]
- Only known first day of use of #146 Lichtenvoorde, [p. 45]
- 259 Waddingsveen on 12½¢ 1872 Willem III (only known example on this denomination and the only example on the 1872 issue in private hands [p. 48]
- Zetten cancel on cover (only example known) [p. 78]

Principal Resources

Because all standard reference works on point cancels are in Dutch, exhibitor has prepared an English language introduction to the subject that has been posted on www.puntstempels.com. The principal Dutch resources relied upon by exhibitor are listed at the end of that article.

Authentications

Certificates of authenticity are in the plastic sleeves behind the relevant pages.

H. Koopman typically authenticated point cancels by imprinting his name on the back of a stamp and writing the number of the cancel. Photocopies of the fronts and backs of any such stamps are behind the relevant pages.

Netherlands Point Cancels – Chicagopex 2026

This chart shows the locations in this 5-frame exhibit of town point cancels from the initial distribution on 1 April 1869 (Numbers 1 – 135) which are interspersed throughout the exhibit. Locations of examples of all the higher numbers, which are arranged in frames 2 and 3, will be found in the table of contents on the title page.

Town	At page(s):
1	5, 11, 57
2	33, 49, 69
3	11
4	11, 53, 75
5	1, 12, 49, 50, 54, 56, 59, 60, 65 - 66, 69, 70, 76, 79, 80
6	6, 63 - 64
7	12, 67
8	76
9	7
10	9
11	51
12	24, 51
13	73
14	51
15	75
16	9
17	67
18	50
19	49
20	74
21	38, 49
22	56, 61
23	49
24	50
25	37, 40, 51
26	52
27	50
28	69
29	13, 68, 70, 73, 75
30	75
31	13
32	71
33	9, 47, 65 - 66
34	52
35	4, 9
36	13
37	59
38	50
39	69, 76
40	76
41	9, 73
42	9, 48
43	22 – 23, 49

44	9, 14, 49, 50, 53, 54, 56, 73
45	9, 69
46	3, 14, 55, 69, 73
47	10
48	58
49	75
50	52
51	4, 10
52	14
53	49, 56
54	76
55	41, 73
56	55
57	35, 63 – 64, 76
58	62
59	42
60	39
61	52
62	21
63	58
64	15
65	5
66	7
67	10, 15, 46, 69
68	10, 32, 75
69	52
70	52
71	74
72	15
73	34, 36, 69
74	52
75	50
76	50
77	9
78	50
79	52
80	50
81	50
82	76
83	73
84	4, 69, 75
85	76
86	50
87	24
88	61
89	51

90	10, 75
91	10, 38, 49, 55
92	50
93	80
94	50
95	50
96	75
97	16
98	75
99	8, 31, 57
100	49
101	50
102	50
103	55
104	52
105	71
106	10, 30
107	10, 69, 70, 75
108	52
109	73
110	69, 75
111	50
112	62
113	52
114	51
115	52
116	10
117	50
118	51
119	51
120	50
121	51
122	76
123	21
124	49
125	52
126	51
127	5
128	56, 69, 71, 72
129	49, 80
130	69
131	50
132	44
133	76
134	51
135	16

Netherlands Point Cancels

Exhibit Plan

This exhibit documents the introduction, design, and uses of Netherlands point cancels (*puntstempels*). Starting with 138 numbers distributed for use beginning 1 April 1869, and ending with number 259 to Waddingsveen on 1 June 1893, these cancels were used until 14 June 1893 at 254 towns, 4 railway lines, and 6 temporary military camps.

The first three frames introduce the cancels and then follow them, largely chronologically, through their distribution to the various offices that received them. As part of this journey, you will learn of the interplay between the **main offices – the only offices to receive point cancels** – and the smaller offices which had to route their mail through main offices for the stamps to be cancelled.

The remainder of the exhibit shows the various ways in which the cancels were used and misused. It concludes with a last day cover of the point cancels, a stamp with the cancel which replaced them dated on the day following their withdrawal, and an epilogue showing point cancels used after they had been withdrawn.

Examples of every point cancel are displayed, and a chart showing their location has been supplied to the judges.

(e) Indicates the item has been expertized. Certificates are behind the pages in the plastic sleeves.

(Jans) shows an item scanned for Harrie Jans which he included in *Nederlandse Puntstempels*, 2016 or 2026.

Rare items are bordered in blue. The explanation why the item is considered rare is in bold blue type.

An English language introduction to point cancels may be found at www.puntstempels.com.



Sherlock Holmes identifies exhibitor's original research.

I. Introduction

(A) Forerunners and purposes 2 - 4

(B) Basic Design 5 - 10

II. The Initial Distributions

(A) Alkmaar (1) to Zwolle (135) 11 - 16

(B) Railway lines (136 to 138 and 141) 17 - 20

III. Main Offices and their Sub-Offices 21 - 24

IV. The Second Round of Distributions

(A) Resort towns (152, 209) 25

(B) Temporary military camps
(155, 159, and 147) 26 - 28

(C) Remaining towns from 151 to 257 29 - 38

V. The Last Towns to Receive Cancels

(A) The reissued numbers 21 and 25 39 - 41

(B) Numbers previously held back
(139, 140, 142 - 146, 148 - 150) 42 - 47

(C) The last two towns (258 and 259) 48

VI. Issues and Documents on which Used

(A) Issues, forms, postal stationery 49 - 59

(B) Proof of delivery, receipts 60 - 66

VII. Postmasters Ignoring Regulations 67 - 78

VIII. The Last Few Days and Beyond 79 - 80

First day of use on a cover to a foreign destination



Amsterdam (#5) to Stockholm, 1 April 1869. (Jans)

Only known example of a first day of use of the point cancel sent to a foreign destination.