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Perforations Galore

Or the Last Word (to date)
on the Perforations of the
"Holland and Colonies" Stamps

BY

A. J. WARREN

London: Stanley Gibbons, Limited. 391, Strand. W.C. (opposite Hotel Cecil), Stamp Dealers and Philatelic Publishers.

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 $B_{\mathcal{F}}A$, J. WARREN

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- rst. In 1864-8 a fairly true "12½×12," with no variations or peculiarities except the kink at the top of the fourth vertical row of holes. (Illustration No. 1.*)
- 2nd. In 1872-85 the better-known " $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ " with " $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ " in the first column, and sundry changes 10 " $12\frac{1}{4} \times 12$ " and " $12\frac{3}{4} \times 12$ " in others: one or two of the vertical columns are really " $12\frac{3}{4}$." (Illustration No. 2.)
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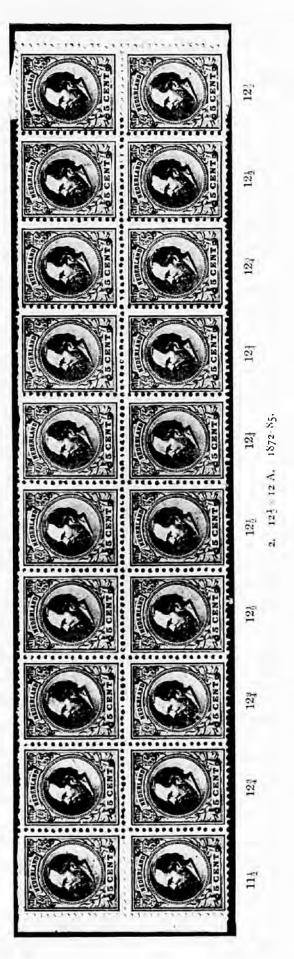
These are, of course, three separate machines, but as the old idea that Nos. 2 and 3 are adaptations of No. 1 is not yet entirely dead, it may be well to recapitulate the reasons against it, the truth of which has already been acknowledged in the Dutch Tijdschrift.

The machine of 1864 had a horizontal line of pins 190 mm. long, thus allowing about 18\(^3\) mm. between the vertical lines; the later machines are 209 and 208 mm. long, with intervals of, say, 20\(^3\) mm. Now even if we suppose that No. 1, having lain idle for four years, was to be resuscitated, imagine the tinkering that would have had to go on in lengthening the horizontal line and shifting all the verticals to make it suit the new size of stamps! And even if that were done how could the first space have been made to gauge 11\(^1\)? An resthetic "defect," perhaps,

* This illustration is taken from a fine block of the 15 c. stamps of the econd issue, which was supplied to me by Mr. Lincoln.



1. 12 × 12, 1864 68.





3. 12½ × 12 B. 1885-89.







6. Line-machine, 14.

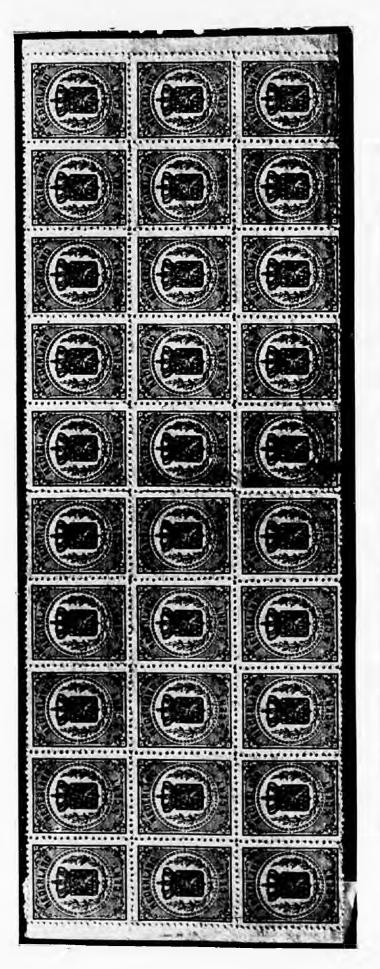


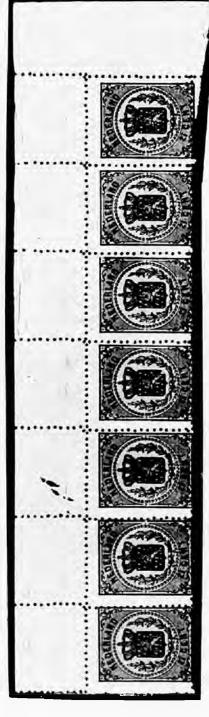
7. Line-machine, 14.





8. Line-machine, 14, large holes (1874).









11, 12. Comb-machine, 131, large holes (1875).



3. Perf. $13\frac{1}{4} \times 14$, showing misplaced perforations in every horizontal row.





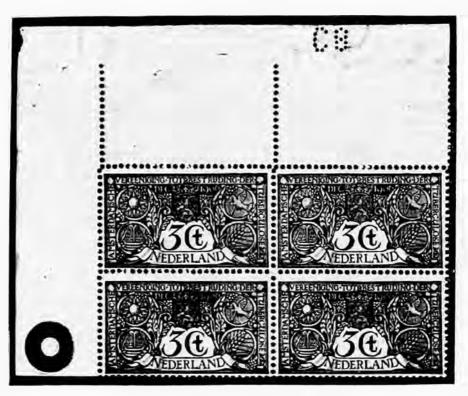
15. Perf. 131 × 14 (1872).



14. Perf. 13\$ × 14 (1874).



17. Perf. 12\frac{1}{2}, small holes (1885).



19. 1906. "Tuberculosis" issue. Perf. 1212.



18. Perf. 121, large holes (1886-7).



20. 1907. "De Ruyter" issue. Perf. 12\frac{1}{2} \times 12.



21, 1S69, Perf. 101 - 10,

but the woebegone condition of the machine did not prevent its doing good work for thirteen years. Remember also that from 1872 to 1874 the machine worked with "small pins."

Some adherents to old ideas may still think that the 1864 machine was revived in 1885. What! after seventeen years' rest? And how about the "tinkering" work?

Let us rather accept the fact that there were three machines,* and call them—

No. 1. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$.

No. 2. $12\frac{1}{5} \times 12$ A (with $11\frac{1}{5} \times 12$, etc.).

No. 3. 12\frac{1}{2} \times 12 B.

We need not delay over the " $10\frac{1}{2} \times 10$ " perforation, also produced by a Comb machine; it was found unsuitable, probably because the holes were too far apart for convenient or safe separation of the stamps.

The next group to consider is that of the $13\frac{1}{4}$, $13\frac{1}{2}$, and 14 perforations, small or large holes.

We shall find here a dodging backwards and forwards between "Comb" and "Line" machines, the cause of which is, I think, explained by my newly acquired strips.

If you will look at Illustration No. 1, and compare it with No. 10, it can be seen that when the stamps have been placed too close together we do not get a proper perforation between them with the "Comb." In such a case a better perforation was secured by a Line machine, as shown in the illustrations of "perf. 14" (see also the use in the nineties of the "11\frac{1}{2}" Line machines for various-sized stamps). We shall therefore find that a "13\frac{1}{2} Comb" had its vertical bars removed, and was thus turned into a "Guillotine." Probably the "13\frac{1}{2} Comb" suffered the same fate.

The 1867 issue of Holland was first perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, and after a year we find the $10\frac{1}{2} \times 10$ perforation in use, and the $13\frac{1}{2}$ (my earliest date, February 14, 1869) and the 14, used first for the "Newspaper" stamps of January, 1869.

The "13½ all round" was a Comb machine, Illustrations Nos. 4 and 5 show this clearly. It has hitherto been considered, both by myself and others, to have been done by a Line machine, because we find "13½" in combination with "14," but we come to this presently.

The "14 all round" was a Line machine, in the form of a "wheel," the perforation running the whole length or width of the paper as shown in Illustrations 6 and 7.

Later on, in 1874, we get the "perf. 14, large holes," which I have always been inclined to think was made by altering the pins of the existing 14 machine, but Illustration 8, a corner block of Curação, shows that the perforation was no longer carried through the margins.

The "Newspaper" stamps of 1869 were "perf. 14," but the issue of the following year is found "perf. 134 all round." This was a *Comb* machine, see Illustrations 9 and 10. The remainders of these stamps were perforated, in 1875, with another "Comb 134" shown in Illustrations 11 and 12; this was much the finest perforation of the lot, which, however, we never see again.

Why was not the whole issue finished off with "134 small holes," both this and the "Postage Dues" of 1870?

Because the vertical lines of pins were taken off to enable Messrs. Enschedé to get on quicker, in 1871–2, with the other work, the stamps of the 1867 issue being too small for the Comb. Their work had greatly increased, as stamps were also wanted for Dutch Indies, Curação and Surinam, and by using the "13½" machine as a "Guillotine" for the horizontal perforations, and the "14" for the vertical, the work was done quicker. Therefore, "13½ × 14" is found in Holland, in 1872, and in Dutch Indies in 1873-4.

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Look at Illustrations 9 and 10 (13 $\frac{1}{4}$ Comb), and 13 and 14 (13 $\frac{1}{4}$ × 14), and you will find the same little irregularity in both, in the positions of the ninth and tenth holes, counting from the right, and again at the twenty-second, twenty-third, and twenty-fourth holes; also note the space between the second and third holes from the left.

Illustrations 15 and 16 show the $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ and $13\frac{1}{4} \times 14$ of Holland, the earliest date

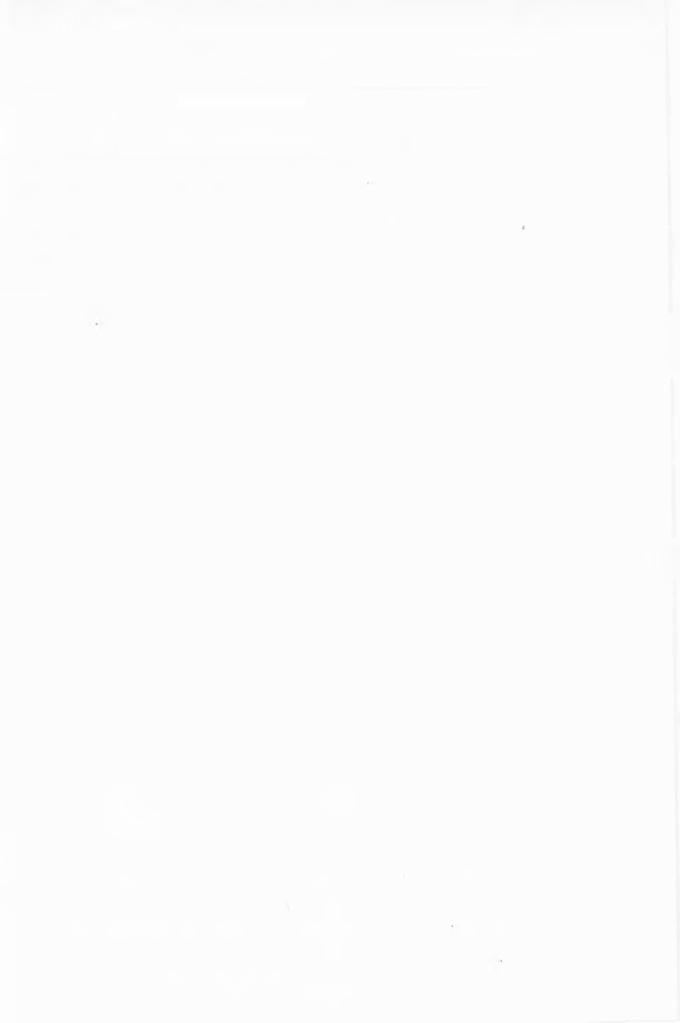
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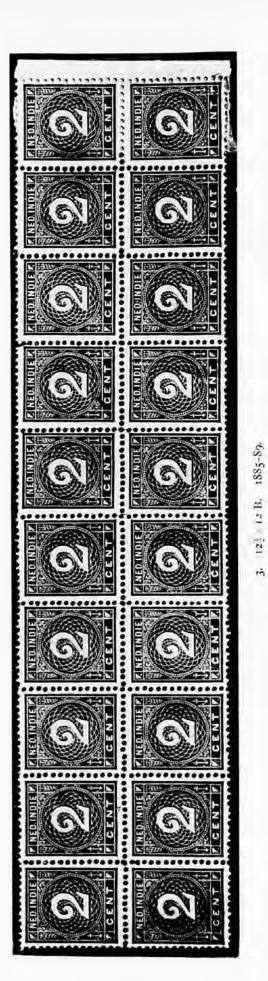
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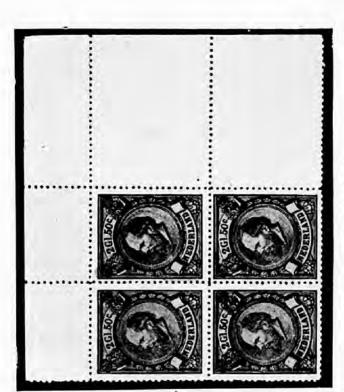




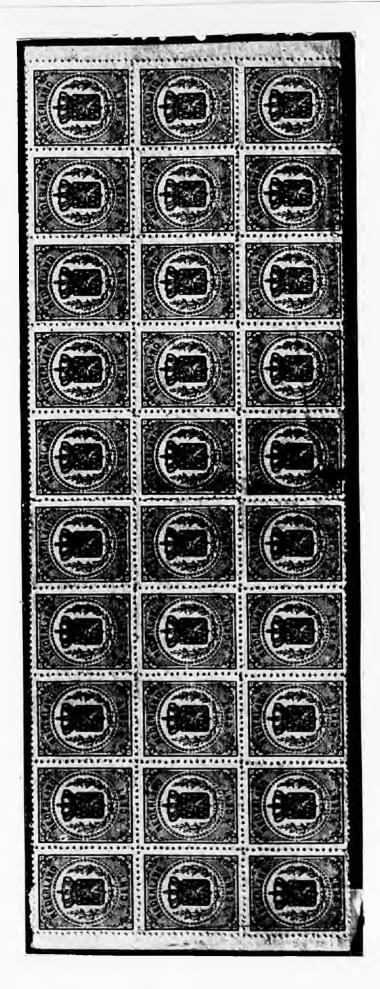


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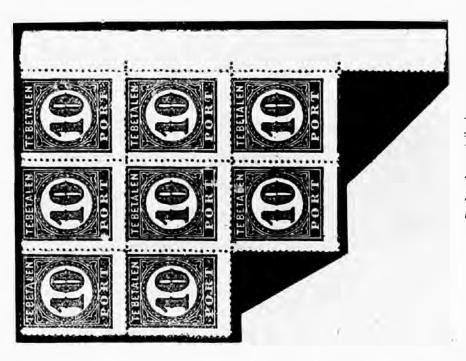


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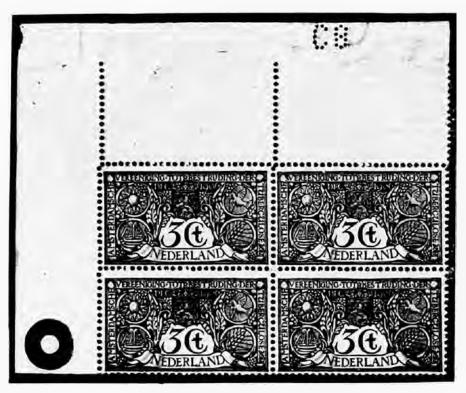
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