

# Perforations Galore 

On the Last (lord (to date)
on the Perforations of the
"Holland and Colonies" Stamps

A. J. 11 ARLEN

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## Or the l.ast Ulord (to date) on the Perforations of the "Holland and Colonies" Stamps

By A. J. WARREス

I$\mathcal{N}$ their early strugeles to arive at a satisfactery solome of perforation the Jutrh (i.e Nessrs. J. Finshede and Sons, of llatitem) seem whate been parlicularly anfortunate, wo juder at least by the many changes in the gatie mite during the first twenty years. I.et us, however, bladly atokowleatae that they ultimately wercance their difficulties, and since 1886 hate steatily athered torne usefal gatge.

In lingland the satuge hat been sen steadily " 14 " thath tour students and adranced speGalists bave rather got into the way of thinking that the "perforation" does not neded th he stadied. Wur butch friends, however, hithe not had that exeuse, amd should bong ere this have biven a proper descriphion of the products of those "eatly strughles."

From time to time, when making displitys of the stitmps of "Hollital" or "Colonies," I have shown the result of my studies of the perforations "as far as I hatel wh," and as certain material which ! hate lately sceured emables me to dear up several points, even (1) showing that sombe of my conchasions hate been womg, 1 ath going to bring this matter up to dace. Dly conclusions have been drawn entirely from my stamps, and are, of course, subject to correction from inner sources of informatoon mot open to me.

Mcantime I have to acknowledge the help given me on severat points by Mr. Koning and Mr. Inohmeyer, lunh of dusterdam, though I fear they maty be surprised at some of my conalusions and perthaps but hall comsintora!

The first perforations we have to deal with are the $12!\times 12$. There are three of them:-

ISI. In $189.4-8$ a fairly true " $12 \frac{1}{d} \times 12$," with mo variations or peenliarities except the hisk at the top of the fourth vertical row of hules. (Illustration Nu. I.")
2mi. In 187285 the lietter-known " $12 \frac{1}{2} \times 12$ " with " $11 \frac{2}{2} \times 12$ " in the first columm, and sundry changes 10 " 12 ) $\times 12$ " and " $122^{3}$ $x 12^{\text {" }}$ in others: one ur two of the vertical coltumns are really " $12 \frac{3}{2}$." \lllustralion Nu. 2.)
3ril. In $18 S_{j} \mathrm{~S}_{\mathrm{a}}$ " ${ }^{4} 12 \frac{1}{2} \times 12$ " with novariations brizizontally, hut occasiomally " $\mathrm{I}_{4}^{48}$ " ver. tically. (Iftustration No. 3.)
These are, of course, three separate machines, but as the old iclea that Nos. 2 and 3 are adaptations of No. 1 is not yet entirely deat, it may be well to recapitulate the reasons igatinst it, the truth of which has already been acknowledged in the Duteh Tijdachreft.

The machine of 1864 had a horizontal line of pins 3 of mm . longr, thus allowing about 183 mon. between ahe vertical lines; the liter marhines are 209 and 208 mm . Vong, with intervals of, say, $20 \$ 111$. Now cren if we suppuse that No. I, 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 sult the new size of stamps: And even if that were done how coukd the litst space have been made to \&atuc 11?" In ersthetic "defect," perhaps,

 Mr. liameala.


3. $123 \times 1213.18 S_{5}-\mathrm{S} 9$.


6. Line-machine, 14,

7. Line-machine, 14 .

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



11, 12. Comb-machine, I3.t, large holes (1875).


1. i. l'eff. 1 it $\times 14$, showing nisplaced jerforations in every horizonial row.

2. Perf. $13 \frac{1}{2} \times 4(1872)$.

3. Perf. $13 \ddagger \times 14(1874)$.
4. Perf. 12!, small holes ( $18 S_{5}$ ).

5. 1906. "Tulbarculosis" issule, l'erf. $12 \frac{1}{2}$.

1. Perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, large holes $(1886-7)$.

2. 1907. "Ite liuyter" issue. Perf. $12 \frac{1}{2} \times 12$.

but the woebegone condition of the mathine did not prevent its dong good work for thirte'n years. Remember also that from 1872 to $187+$ the machine worked with "small pins."

Some adherents to old ideas may still Wink that the $186+$ marhine was retived in 1885. What: after seomton years' rest: And how about the "tinkerins" work:

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

No. 1. $12 \frac{1}{2} \times 1=$.
No. 2. $12 \frac{1}{2} \times 12$ A(willitrole, ctc.).
No. $3.12 \frac{1}{2} \times 1213$.
We need not delay over the " $10.2 \times 10$ " perforation, also produced by a Comb mabine; 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 $131,13 \frac{1}{2}$, and $1+$ perforations, small or large holes.

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

If you will look at lllustration No. 1, and compare it with No. 10, it can lue seen that when the stamps have been placed too close together we do not set 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. If" (see also the use in the nineties of the "11!" Line machines for various-sized stamps). We shall therefore find that a "i3! Comb" had its rerfical hars remored, and was thus turned into a "Cuillotine." I'robably the " 3 !! Comb" suffered the same fite.

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 $1+1860$ ) and the 14 , used first for the "Newspaper" stamps of January, is69.

[^0]The " $13 \frac{1}{2}$ all round " was a Comb machne, Illustrations . ${ }^{\text {los }}+\frac{1}{4}$ and 5 show this clearly: It has hitherto been considered, both by myself and others, to have been done by a Lint marhine, because we find " 132 " in combination with " 1 ." but we come to this presently.

The " $1+$ all round" was a Line machine, in the form of a "wheels" the perforation ruming the whole length or width of the paper as shown in Illustrations 6 and 7.

Later on, in 1854, we get the "perf. It, large holes," which I have always been inclined to think was made by altering the pins of the existing it machine, but lllustration 8 , a corner block of Curacao, shows that the perforation was no longer carried through the maryins.
"The "Newspaper" stamps of 1869 were "perf. 1f", but the issue of the following year is found "perf. ist all round." "This was a Comb machine, see Illustrations 9 and 1o. The remainders of these stamps were perforated, in 1875 , with another "Comb $134^{\text {" }}$ 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 " $13 \frac{1}{4}$ smatl holes," both this and the "l'ostage Dues" of 1870?
liecause the ritritiol lines of pians atore tuken off we enable Messis. Enschede to get on quicker, in 18712 , with the other work, the stamps of the 1867 isste being too small for the Conb. Their work had greatly increased, as stamps were also wanted for Dutch Indies, Curaça and Surinam, and by using the " 131 " mathine as a" (iuillotine" for the lorizontal perforations, and the " 14 " for the vertical, the work was done guicker. "herefore, " $13.4 \times 14$ " is found in Holland, in 1872, and in Mutch Indies in 18734.

I must produce my proofs.
Look at Illustrations 9 ) and 10 ( 131 Comb), and 13 and $1+(13) \times 14$ ), and gou 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 twentyscond, 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 $13!\times 1 .+$ and $5.5 \times 1+$ of 1 Iolland. the earliest date
said to be 1872 . But I have no material to prove anything about the $13 \$ \times 14$; the 14 , $\times 13 \frac{1}{2}$, and the new discovery, in Holland, of $14 \times 13 k$, still awat elucidation.

I shall not trouble you about the " $13 \frac{1}{2} \times$ 13\& to $13 \frac{1}{2}$," large holes. The horizontal line is longer, and the spacing wider than in the $13 \frac{1}{2}$ of 1869 One is only inclined to wonder how it is that so many of the vertical lines gauge " 13.4 ."

Illustrations 17 and 18 show the "perf. $12 \frac{1}{2}$ all round Comb," first with small holes, in 1885 , and then large holes, in $1886-7$.

The last illustrations, 19 and 20 , show the "Tuberculosis" stamps of 1906 , perf. $12 \frac{1}{2}$, apparently done by temporarily removing every alternate vertical line of the existing machine, and the "de Ruyters" of 1907, perf. " $12 \frac{1}{2} \times 12$," exceptional size.

FRINTETB B
HILLAM URENGON゙ ANL SON, LTD.


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In Finglimd the gauge hats lacen so steadily "If" that our students and advanced specialists have mather got into the way of thinking that the "perforation" does not need to be studied. (our Jutch friends, however, hate not had wat excuse, and should long ere this have given a proper description of the products of those "ear!? strughles."

From time to time, when making displays of the stamps of "I [olland" or "Colonies," I have shown the result of mot studies of the perforations "as far as I hat got," alld as certain material which I hawe lately secured enables me to clear up several points, eten to showing that some of my conctusions have been wrong, I all groing to bring this matter up io dite. My comelusions have been drawn entirely from $m$ stamps, and are, of course, subject to correction from inner sources of informatoon not open to me.

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1st. In $180_{4}-8$ a fairly true " $12 \frac{1}{2} \times 12$," with no variations ur peculiarities except the kink at the top of the fourth vertical row of holes. (Itlustration No. 1.")
2nd. In 1872- 85 the lietter-known " $12 \frac{1}{2} \times 12$ " with " $11 \frac{1}{2} \times 12$ " in the first column, and sundry' changes 10 " 12 年 $\times 12$ " and " 12 ? $\times 12$ " in otlers: one ur wo of the vertical collums are really " $12 \frac{1}{2}$." (Illustration Ni. 2.)
3ril. In issj $\mathrm{S}^{\mathrm{S}} \mathrm{a}$ " $\mathrm{I} 2 \frac{1}{2} \times 12$ " will no variations horizentatlly, but accasionally " 1 tas" vertically. (Illustration No. 3.)
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 $186^{+}$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, 203 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 ? Aud even if that were done how could the first space have been made to gauge 11!? An arsthetic "defect," perhaps,

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8. Linemachine, 14 , large lwoes ( 18,4 ).




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16. Perf. $13+\times 1+(1872)$.

14. Perf. $13 \ddagger \times 14$ (1874).
17. Perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ small holes ( 185 ).

19. 1906. "Tulberculasis" issue. Perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.


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[^1]:    * Jhis illusuration is a aken from a line lalock of the 15 c .
     Mr. 1,inculn.

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