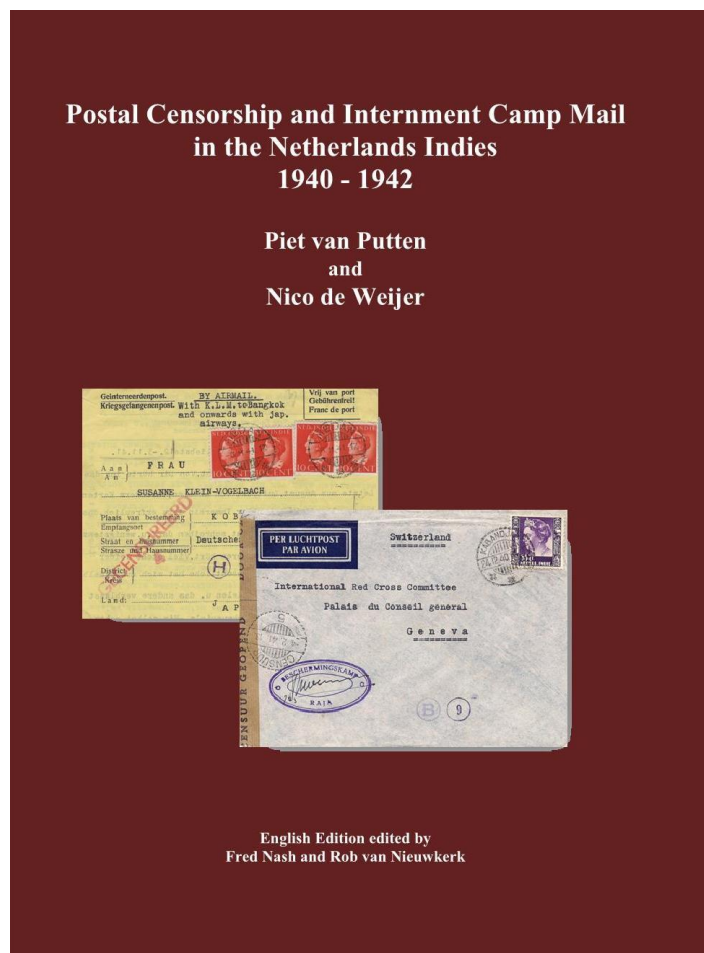


# Postal Censorship and Internment Camp Mail in the Netherlands Indies, 1940-1942

(A new 449-page publication)

**CHICAGOPEX 2016**



In October 2015 a new book was published in the Netherlands by ZWP (Studiegroep Zuid-West Pacific) – an organization of philatelists specializing in the postal history of the (former) Dutch overseas territories and Australasia.

The authors are Dutch philatelists Piet van Putten and Nico de Weijer, both long-time specialists in Netherlands Indies postal history, with the translation into English and further editing by Fred Nash (APS) and Rob van Nieuwkerk, also both ZWP members.

The book deals with the censorship era in the Netherlands Indies during World War II, from the early 1940s (the time of the German occupation of the Netherlands) until early 1942, when the Netherlands Indies were occupied by Japan. During this period, German residents of the Netherlands Indies and members of the NSB (National Socialist Movement) were interned in the Netherlands Indies. Residents of countries allied to the Axis cause were likewise interned.

Mail and messages sent by, or sent to inhabitants of the Netherlands Indies were censored, as was all local and overseas correspondence from and to internees. Local

suspicious mail was also censored. The book provides a detailed description (with supporting documentation) of the background and of the procedures implemented by the censorship authorities, and is illustrated with hundreds of color photos of letters and documents.

All censorship labels and all types of censorship markings discovered thus far are illustrated by actual examples, and are tabulated with an indication of relative rarity, thereby creating a useful reference framework with a reference number. Additionally, all cancellations used by both the internment and protection camps are fully dealt with and illustrated.

The book is conveniently divided into eleven Chapters and eight Appendices, dealing with the historical background to censorship; the censorship offices and censorship procedures; general censorship; military censorship; economic censorship; currency censorship; internment and protection camp mail, camp locations and camp censorship procedures; and Red Cross involvement in facilitating overseas mail (to the Netherlands via Geneva involving German censorship). A separate chapter deals with censorship in Dutch New Guinea, a part of which remained unoccupied during the war.

The bound book has 449 size A4 pages and is a full-colour, hard-cover edition, with close to 500 full color philatelic illustrations. In addition, there are 164 footnotes referencing documents, 26 quotes from newspapers and photos of 57 historical documents.

This book will become the standard reference work about censorship in the Netherlands Indies, and is a must-have for all philatelists interested in this fascinating area.

The book is available at a price of \$ 85,=, plus shipping costs, from the author at [njdeweijer@telfort.nl](mailto:njdeweijer@telfort.nl) or through the ZWP treasurer, P.O. Box 1206, 2280 CE Rijswijk, Netherlands.

Visit also the website (URL) of the Southwest Pacific Study Group (ZWP) [www.studiegroep-zwp.nl](http://www.studiegroep-zwp.nl)

Additional information can also be obtained from Fred Nash in the USA, at [fredjn@centurylink.net](mailto:fredjn@centurylink.net).



A censored letter returned to the sender after being disallowed by the General Censorship Office in Batavia, August 1940 ('Returned to Sender / Not Allowed' in red).



Postcard with the circular authorisation mark of the Alasvallei internment camp commander, sent to the Orphan Chamber in Soerabaja, 18 November 1940. The sender requests to have his pension sent. So far he had received only 15 guilders.



A Netherlands Indies Red Cross uprated 75c envelope with 75c additional postage, dated June 1941. Rates were increased when a longer route to Europe (via the USA) became



necessary due to war circumstances. "Contact forms" with messages were placed in these envelopes by Indies residents. The Netherlands Indies Red Cross removed them for bulk-forwarding to Geneva, from where they were sent to the Netherlands.



Registered airmail letter sent from Batavia to England, October 1941, via the USA on a Pan American Airlines Clipper from Australia. At Batavia, it was censored by normal censorship for written content, and by currency censorship for the control of monetary instruments.