

## Interrupted Perforation Issues (1924-1933)

In Germany and other countries using the POKO machine, roll stamps were generally perf 14 or 13 1/2. However, in Holland the standard perf 12 1/2 when made into rolls meant that stamps tended to pre-separate in the machine, causing a breakdown.

To address this problem a pragmatic approach was adopted of removing certain pins from the perforation comb when providing sheets for making up into rolls. This provided a stronger 'ribbon' to survive the POKO mechanism until the perforation comb was completely replaced in 1933 with the 13 1/2 x 12 1/2 comb (stamps available from 1934).

There are four main types of interrupted perforation, all produced by removing certain pins from the perforation comb:

A - 1925 Interrupted on Two Sides (Unwatermarked)

B - 1926 Interrupted on Two Sides (With Circles Watermark)

C - 1928 Interrupted on Four Sides

D - 1930 Interrupted on Two (Corners only)

The interrupted perforation on four sides was produced to allow provision of both vertical and horizontal rolls. Horizontal rolls were used for a new type of franking machine brought from America.



Type B

Type B

Type A



Type C

Examples of different main types of interrupted perforations used in POKO machines by VDB - Van den Berg (Metaalhandel), Amsterdam and KMG - Kaashandel Maatschappij Gouda



## HOKUS POKUS AND THE POKO MACHINE

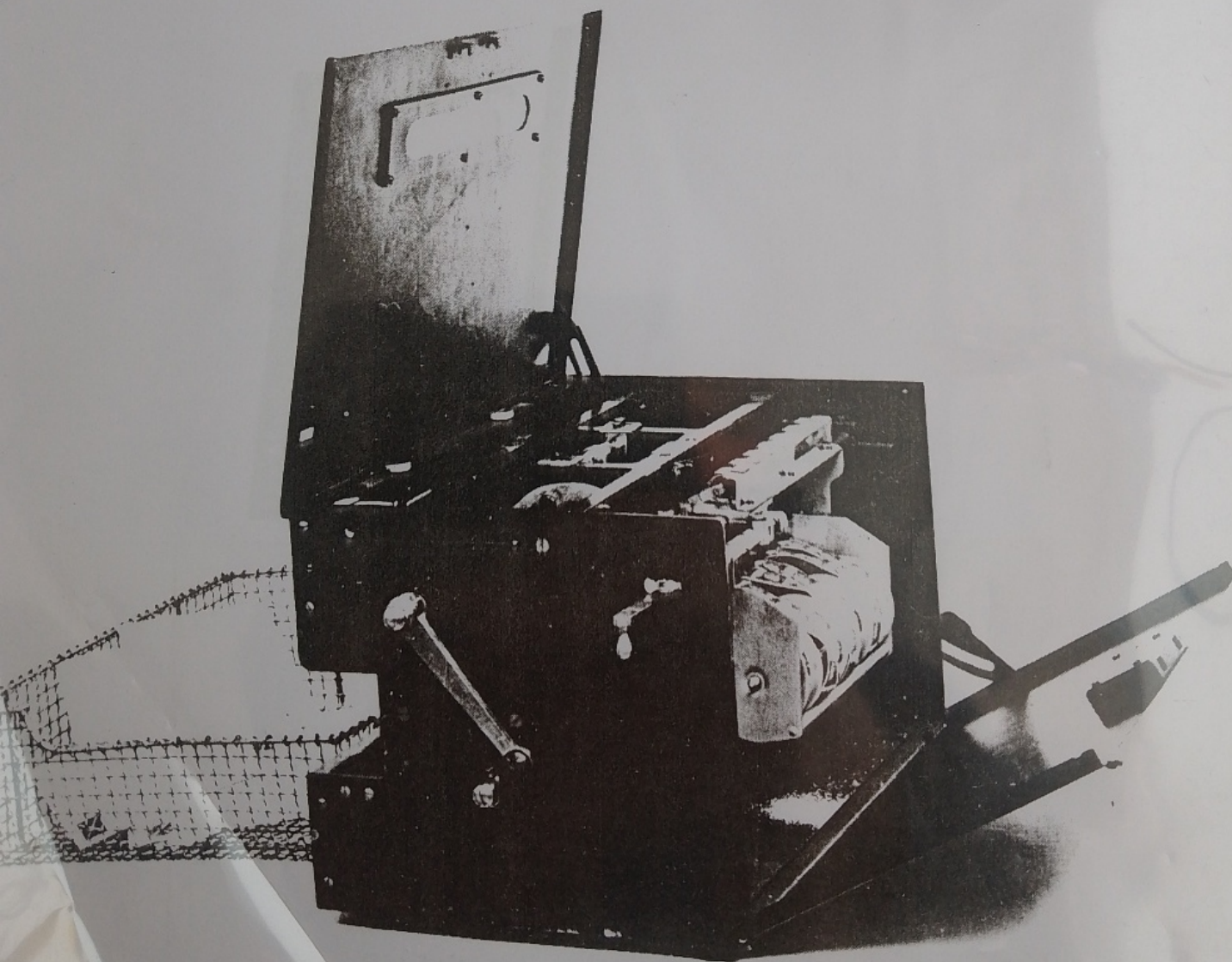
The POKO stamp affixing machine was first used commercially in the Netherlands in 1914, with the first known mechanically affixed stamp being 2 1/2 cents (1899 issue) on a postcard dated Sep 9 1914. The purpose of the machine was to speed up the stamping up of mail prior to the general use of meter machines; it has been suggested that a trained operator could stamp up to 120 mail items per minute using the POKO machine!

Stamps affixed by the POKO machine generally have three characteristics;

- (i) provided in coils or rolls
- (ii) perforated with initials of the posting company
- (iii) affixed by machine

However, not all roll/coil stamps were affixed using the POKO machine as rolls were made available by vending machine at the main Post Office at The Hague from 1903 and subsequently at other post offices.

From June 6 1911 stamp rolls of 500 or 1,000 stamps could be ordered for each of the values 1/2 cent to 50 cents. They were available at face value with a premium of 5c or 7 1/2c respectively per roll. Rolls were made up from standard sheet printings which were divided into strips and affixed to each other using the top margin selvedge.



The POKO machine, opened to show the rolls of coil stamps. During normal operation the covers are closed and locked.



## USERS OF POKO MACHINES

It is known that 67 different sets of perforated initials or markings originated from POKO machines in Holland (see POKO issues of the Netherlands, B.E. Bauder, Netherlands Philatelic Society of Chicago, 1975). Of these, 6 firms used POKO machines only on issues prior to the Interrupted Perforations - a full listing is available in Bauder (above).

In addition, other firms used the POKO but did not employ the perfin mechanism. To further complicate matters, the first stamps of each new roll placed into the POKO are fed into a track extending beyond the perforating die (when used) so the first half dozen stamps would not receive their perforated initials!



Type A

Type A

Type A



Type A

Type A

Type A



Type A

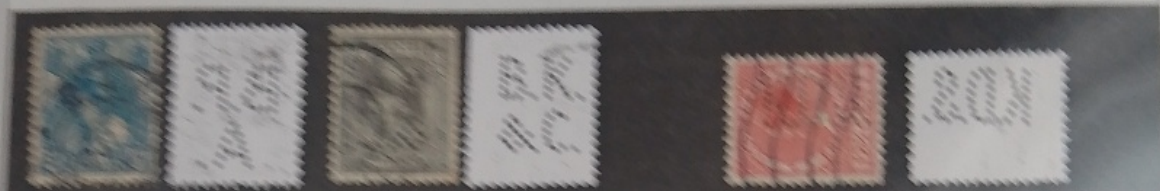
Type A

Type C

Further examples of POKO initials.



Not all perforated stamps are the result of PCKO usage. Use of Perforis in Holland date from March 31 1875, as a security measure within companies. Companies continued to use their own perforated initials throughout the period of PCKO usage on all issues. These examples show various initials, all with full stops after each initial. (PCKO machines never added full stops after their initials).





Further examples of perfins but without full stops - none of which are POKO perforated (known through the shape and style of lettering). Note the missing holes in the K and S examples, caused by broken pins - this also occurred on later POKO usage.



POKO machines were also used in Germany, using the standard perf 14 used throughout the period. Examples here include typical perfins - the lower two examples are likely to be POKO perforated; usage of POKO machines in Germany pre-dated common usage in Holland.





POKO MACHINE IN USE WITH COMPANY ENVELOPES/CARDS - 1



SZ - Pieter Schoon & Zoon (Zaandam)  
Type A - 7 1/2c Post Card Rate to Amsterdam



VDB - Van Den Berg (Amsterdam)  
Type A - 7 1/2c Post Card Rate to local Amsterdam address

POKO MACHINE IN USE WITH COMPANY ENVELOPES/CARDS - 2



NBA - Nederlandsche Bank (Amsterdam)  
Type A - 10c Internal Letter to local Amsterdam address



POKO MACHINE IN USE WITH COMPANY ENVELOPES/CARDS - 3



KMG - Kaashandel Maatschappij (Gouda)  
Type C - 6c Letter Rate to Amsterdam



POKO MACHINE IN USE WITH COMPANY ENVELOPES/CARDS - 3A



VVH - P.F. van Vlissingen (Helmond)  
Type B - 7½c Inland Letter Rate (Window Envelope - Recipient Unknown)

*This item purchased at AMPHILEX 2002 for the Isa Stuart Award - awarded to members of the Netherlands Philatelic Circle who have made a significant contribution to the Circle for the benefit of its Members.*



**KEG's  
THEE & KOFFIE**

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No. 1806

Aan de Twentsche Bank

Postbus 407

AMSTERDAM

**FIRMA C. KEG  
ZAANDAM**

( Centrum )

CK - C Keg (Thee & Koffee) (Zandaam)  
Type C - 15c Internal Letter to Amsterdam



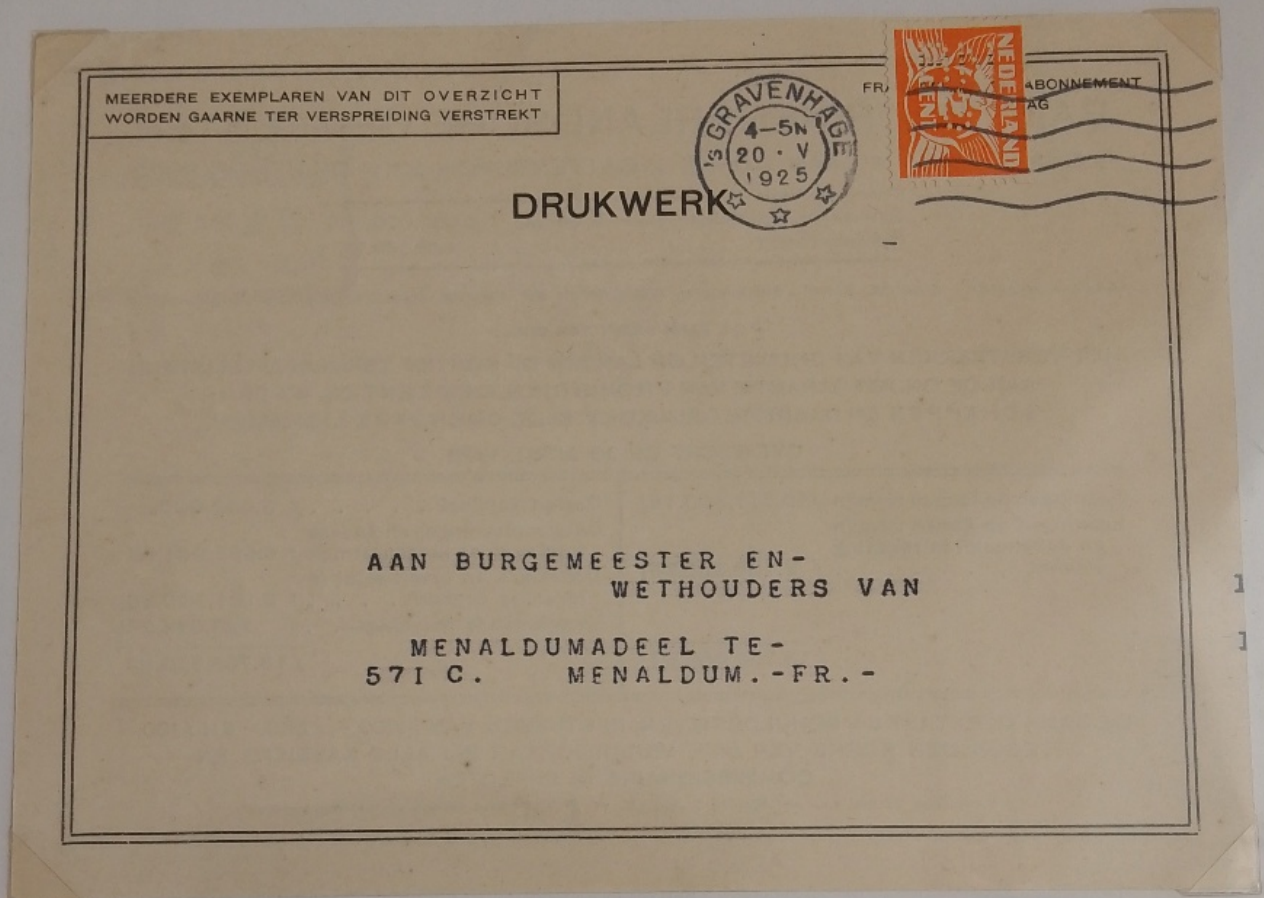
POKO MACHINE IN USE WITH COMPANY ENVELOPES/CARDS - 5



NBA - Nederlandsche Bank (Amsterdam)  
Type D - 5c Letter Rate to local Amsterdam address  
(hoekroltanding)



**POKO MACHINE IN USE WITH COMPANY ENVELOPES/CARDS - 6**  
First Recorded Usage by BNG



**BNG - Bank voor Nederlandsche Gemeenten ('sGravenhage)**  
**Type A - 2c Printed Matter Rate to Menaldum (Friesland)**

This Printed Matter Postcard was sent on 20-V-1925 - see postmark - confirmed by the datestamp of the recipient (22-MEI-1925) on reverse. In the Bauder book on POKO Usage, the earliest known usage by BNG is given as Jan 16 1926. This card clearly predates this by 7 months and was reported in the Netherlands Philatelic Circle Newsletter in January 2002.



## EARLY USE OF POKO MACHINES

The standard reference 'Poko issues of The Netherlands' by Burton E. Bauder was published by the Netherlands Philatelic Society of Chicago in 1974 and revised in 1975. It states that the earliest known use of the Poko Machine in The Netherlands was November 11, 1915 by G H Buhrmann Papiergroothandel in Amsterdam, using the initials GH/B. Companies were using the Poko Machine with rolls of stamps with normal p12½ perforations well before the introduction of the Roltandingzegels from April 1925.

Below are three examples of Poko usage by T. Duyvis (Koog Zaandijk) using the TD perfin:

5c (NVPH 107) dated 17-XII-1924

5c (NVPH 149) dated 11-II-1925

5c (NVPH R6 (Roltanding)) dated 18-III-1925



Bauder's book gives earliest known dates of Poko usage for each of the 67 companies using the perfin mechanism. It stated that the earliest known usage for T. Duyvis was June 1 1927. The three cards above all pre-date this, even the two-sided Roltanding zegel (R6). It is worth checking early usage of Poko perfins on standard p12½ issues prior to the introduction of Roltandingzegels. They are probably not that common – especially as perfins were often discarded as damaged goods when their significance was unrecognized.

*Peter Hardie*



28-1-1925

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