

Netherlands Mail in Times of Turmoil

Volume 1 1568–1795

by Kees Adema FRPSL



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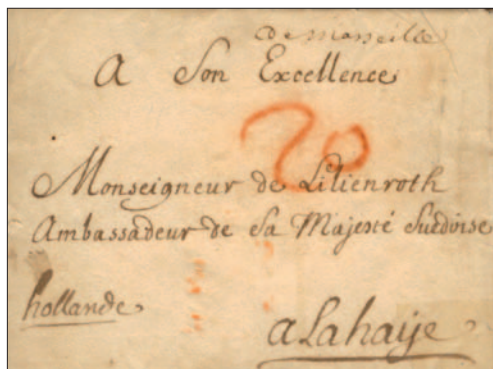
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The main objective of this study of Dutch field post and related subjects has been to cover philatelic aspects of correspondence related to wars, military operations, upheavals and civil unrest. However to appreciate how and why the mail was carried an understanding of each conflict or war is crucial. The historic, military and political background of the period in question and chronologies of relevant events puts the philatelic aspects into their proper historical context. In this way the reader's curiosity will be stirred.

Who is not fascinated by a ruler's signature on an ancient document? Who is not sobered by the realisation that a general's letter to his wife sent by field post was written within hours of his going off into battle or that a dispatch was delivered by a military courier on horseback? A side benefit of conflict, if one can call it that, is that many letters with military relevance survive, shedding light on contemporary events. More often than not it is possible to recreate the effect wars, battles and turmoil had on the transportation of mail. However the writers of these letters often did not survive the event about which



Blaeu map from about 1621 showing the territory of the 'Provinces Unies' at the end of the Twelve Year Truce between the Dutch and the Spanish and the border with the Spanish southern Netherlands (Espagnols) and Westphalia to the east.



Letter dated 1701 from a Danish galley slave addressed to The Hague.

they wrote, adding a poignant relevance.

This first volume covers the period from the start of the Dutch revolt against Spanish rule until the end of the United Netherlands Republic in 1795. Many letters are related to the constant involvement by England and France in the European conflicts of the day and their effect on Belgium and Netherlands.

This trilogy should appeal to the philatelist as well as the historian. Besides the historical context, postal courier routes, tariffs and catalogues of postal markings for the mail covered are also included, although examples of some postal markings in this earlier period are not plentiful.

The author is working on *Volume 2* which covers the Batavian Republic (1795-1806), the Kingdom of Holland (1806-1810), the Second Annexation by France (1810) until the withdrawal of the Napoleonic army from Holland in 1813 and the Provisional Government (to 1815). This volume will include ten catalogues with listings of French, English and Dutch field post markings and include fascinating

letters from the Russian and Peninsular campaigns among others. *Volume 2* is nearing completion and is scheduled for publication in late 2010. *Volume 3*

will cover the post-Napoleonic Kingdom of The Netherlands through the Belgian revolt and secession. All three Volumes are to be in the English language only, in hardback binding, US letter format (279 x 216 mm) and colour throughout.

The book has *xiv* + 168 pages.



Denmark to Brabant via Hamburg and Amsterdam, 17 June 1707.



Cape of Good Hope to Amsterdam; 28/29 June 1789.

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