

A Basic Guide to 1962-63 UNTEA Issues and Brief Postal History of New Guinea

ROBERT FINDER

Have you ever wondered why those Netherlands New Guinea stamps overprinted with the letters "UNTEA" were issued in the early 1960s? The answer may be far more complicated than you realize.

This article explains how some of the messy political (and postal) history of the island of New Guinea led to the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA) operations on the island and the creation of those stamps. And for collectors of Netherlands and Colonies, the article explores the many variations of the UNTEA stamps themselves. The history of Papua, known today as New Guinea, is a complicated story involving much conflict between the various groups of indigenous people on the island, between major countries in the world, and between the indigenous people and the countries trying to colonize the island.

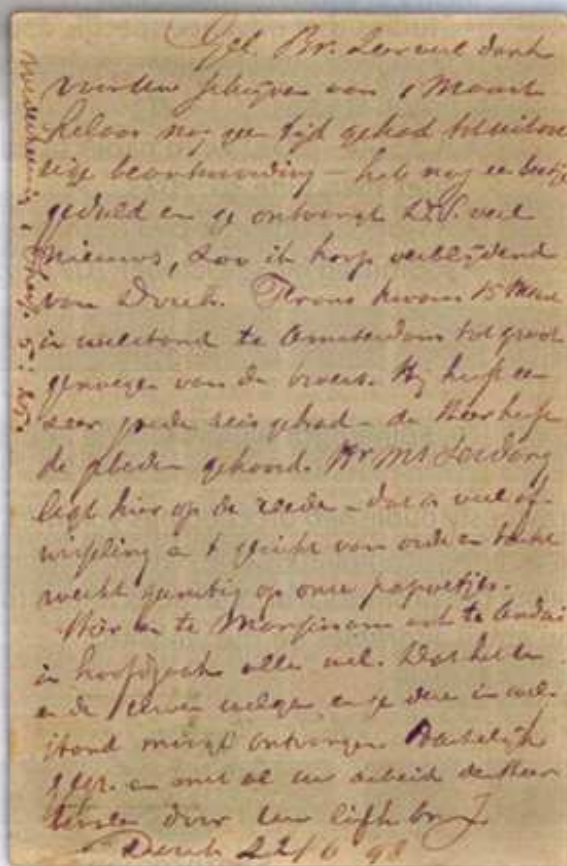


Figure 1. Front and reverse of Netherlands Indies 5-cent postal card used in West New Guinea before post offices were officially open. It was sent from Doreh (Manakwari area) canceled on June 29, 1898, to Taneteter near Makassar (now Sulawesi). Images courtesy of Han Dijkstra.

The exploration and conflicts in New Guinea's history result in a rich and complex story about the various postal systems used on the island.

The island of Papua, the second-largest island in the world, was originally attached to the continent of Australia until the flooding of the Torres Strait separated them about 10,000 years ago. It is believed that the first indigenous people arrived more than 50,000 years ago.

When the Spanish and Portuguese first started exploring the island in search of spice in the 1500s, they referred to the island as "Papua," a term used by the local inhabitants. Later, Spanish explorers began to call it "New Guinea" because they noticed a resemblance between the Papuans and the indigenous people of Spanish Guinea in Africa.

In 1602, the Dutch established the Dutch East India Company for trade around the Indonesian archipelago, which also included the western half of New Guinea. Various countries and their territories, including Portugal, Spain, France, the Netherlands, Germany, the British Colony of Queensland, Australia, the United Kingdom and later, Japan and Indonesia all tried to claim parts of New Guinea over the past 500 years. Conflicts remain today within the island.

Initially, the Dutch were the most successful in claiming and holding on to parts of the island, and in 1828 they formally proclaimed the western part of the island as part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and called it "Netherlands New Guinea." After different claims for the eastern half of the island between France, the British Colony of Queensland, and Germany, by 1884 the island of New Guinea was "controlled" by the Dutch on the western half of the island and incorporated into the "The Netherlands Indies"; Germany controlled one-third of the island, the northeastern part, and called it "German New Guinea"; and the remaining one-third of the island, on the southeastern side, was controlled by the British, and was called "British

Figure 2. A used pair of the Netherlands Indies 5-cent blue, NVPH 22 used on a card or letter with a Ternate postmark of August 13, 1899. Image courtesy of Han Dijkstra. The NVPH listing is from Dutch NVPH Speciale 2020 Catalogus.



Figure 3. Airmail letter sent from Hollandia, West New Guinea, on April 1, 1946, to Basel, Switzerland. It contains two of the Netherlands Indies 1945 7 1/2 cent, NVPH 308 and three of the 1945 10-cent brown issue, NVPH 309.



Figure 4. Front and reverse of a postcard sent from Stephansort, German New Guinea, to Eisenach, Germany, in 1898 using a Germany 1898 10 pf stamp (Scott 48) and sailing ship on reverse side.





Figure 5. Front and reverse of a cover sent from Stephansort, German New Guinea, to Württemberg, Germany, in 1994 with four stamps from the 1889 German series, two 3 pf stamps, one 5 pf stamp and one 10 pf stamp (Scott 46, 47, and 48, respectively).



Figure 6. The front and reverse of a 5 pf postcard sent in 1898 from Stephansort, German New Guinea, to Berlin, Germany. The reverse side of the postcard is a colorful picture of Erima Harbor, German New Guinea.

New Guinea" (see Map 1 on page 793). After the creation of "Australia" by the Federation Act, uniting all the colonies of Australia into one country of the "Commonwealth of Australia" in 1901, the United Kingdom transferred the administration of British New Guinea to the new federal Commonwealth of Australia in 1905. It was then named "The Territory of Papua."

Early 1900s New Guinea

Netherlands New Guinea

During the early period of New Guinea before World War I, various stamps were used by the different governments controlling the regions. The Dutch introduced stamps for the Netherlands Indies in 1864 and these were eventually used in the Netherlands New Guinea. The first post offices were opened in Netherlands New Guinea in 1898 (Fakfak and Manokwari), followed by Merauke in 1902. Prior to the openings of the post offices, Netherlands Indies postal stationery was used in some cases. Figure 1 is an example of Netherland Indies stationery used in New Guinea prior to the opening of the first auxiliary post office.

The first actual Netherlands Indies stamp known to be used in New Guinea after the first post offices were opened is the 1890 5-cent Numeral (Cipher) in blue (Netherlands Indies Scott 22). An example of a pair that was used on a card or letter from Manokwari is seen in Figure 2.

Various types of stamps for the Netherlands Indies were used in Netherlands New Guinea until World War II, and then after WWII until 1950. The example shown in Figure 3 was sent from Hollandia to Basel, Switzerland, in 1946 (two Netherlands Indies Scott 254 and three Scott 255).

German New Guinea

In the northeast of New Guinea, in the colony of German New Guinea, they sometimes used German stamps beginning in 1888. Figures 4 and 5 show a German 10-pfennig postcard



Map 1. New Guinea, circa 1900. The Netherland Indies territory is outlined in yellow; German New Guinea is outlined in orange; British New Guinea is outlined in pale pink.

sent from Stephansort, German New Guinea, in 1898, and a letter sent in 1894, also sent from Stephansort.

Beginning in 1897 Germany stamps were overprinted with the words "Deutsch-Neu-Guinea." An example of this overprint, shown in Figure 6, is a 5 pf postcard, again sent from Stephansort. On the reverse of the postcard is a scene from Erima Harbor. German New Guinea stamps were issued in 1901 and these were used until WWI. The first series issued in 1901 had the words "Deutsch-Neu-

Guinea," and the second series issued in 1914 ran the words "NeuGuinea" together without the hyphen (Figure 7).

In September 1914, during WWI, Australia invaded German New Guinea, and Germany lost control of this territory. For a short time the Australians used overprinted Germany New Guinea stamps in the postal system. The Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force overprinted existing stocks of Germany New Guinea stamps, and also from the German Marshall Islands, with the letters "G.R.I."



Figure 7. A German New Guinea 3-mark stamp issued in 1901 (German New Guinea Scott 18) and a German New Guinea 5-mark stamp issued in 1914. On the 1914 (Scott 21) issue, the word "NeuGuinea" is not hyphenated.



Figure 8. German Marshall Islands 20 pf (Scott 19) and German New Guinea 20 pf (New Britain Scott 33) stamps overprinted by the Australian Military in 1914. For a brief time German New Guinea was renamed "New Britain".



Figure 9. Australian 3-pence stamp overprinted "N. W. Pacific Islands" issued in 1915 (North West Pacific Islands Scott 24).



Figure 10. A pair of the newly established "Territory of New Guinea" 2-pence stamps that was issued in 1925 (New Guinea Scott 33).



Figure 11. Front and reverse showing a cover with pair of 6-pence Queensland stamps postmarked in British New Guinea in 1893, and sent to Nova Scotia, Canada, before British New Guinea issued its own stamps (Queensland Scott 95).. These covers are extremely rare. Images are courtesy of Glen Stephens, Glen Stephen Stamps, Sydney, Australia.

Guinea, to Württemberg, Germany, and the second series issued in 1914 and the words "New Guinea" together with the word "Papua" (Figure 12). In September 1914, during World War I, Australia invaded German New Guinea, and Germany lost control of this territory. For a short time the Australians used overprinted German New Guinea stamps in the postal system. The Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force overprinted existing stocks of German New Guinea stamps and also



Figure 12. Front and reverse of a British New Guinea 1-pence postcard, uprated with a 2-pence stamp, sent to Germany in 1903 (Papua New Guinea Scott 3).

These letters are the abbreviation for "Georgius Rex Imperator," referring to the incumbent British king. Two examples of these are shown in Figure 8, one with the "G.R.I." overprinted on a German New Guinea 20 pf stamp and one on a German Marshall Islands 20 pf stamp. Both types were used under the Australian control of the area. During a very brief time from 1914 to 1915 while these overprints were being used, this area was known as "New Britain," actually the name of another island just to the east of the island of New Guinea. In 1915 Australia overprinted Australian stamps with "N.W. Pacific Islands" and these were used until 1925 in what had been "German New Guinea" or "New Britain," as well as in several other islands, such as Nauru (Figure 9).

In 1925 under a League of Nations mandate, German New Guinea was officially placed under the administration of Australia, and the name was changed to the "Territory of New Guinea" and its own stamps began to be used until the beginning of WWII. See Figure 10 for a pair of the 2-pence "Bird of Paradise" issue.

British New Guinea

In the southeast of New Guinea, in British New Guinea, Queensland stamps were used from 1888 until 1901; these covers sent from British New Guinea with Queensland stamps are extremely rare. See Figure 11 for



Figure 13. British New Guinea 2-pence stamp overprinted "Papua." Issued in 1906 (Papua New Guinea Scott 13).



Figure 14. First stamps issued as "Papua" included a 4-pence stamp issued in 1907 (Papua New Guinea Scott 31).



Figure 15. Netherlands Indies 10-cent 1941 stamp overprinted by the Japanese.

an example of the partial images of the front and reverse of a cover sent to Nova Scotia, Canada. British New Guinea issued its own stamps in 1901. These stamps are listed in the Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue under Papua New Guinea. Figure 12 shows an uprated 1-pence British New Guinea postcard with a 2-pence stamp that was sent to Germany in 1903.

In 1905, the name of the territory was changed from British New Guinea to "Territory of Papua," and the British New Guinea definitive set of 1901 was overprinted with the word "Papua." See Figure 13 for a British New Guinea

2-pence stamp overprinted in 1906. These types of overprinted stamps were used until Papua issued a new set, with its own Papua stamps in 1907-8. For example, see Figure 14 for a 4-pence example of the first stamps issued as "Papua." Papua would continue to issue its own stamps until the start of WWII.

WWII in New Guinea

Are we confused yet? At this point the author certainly was confused and needed to do additional research.

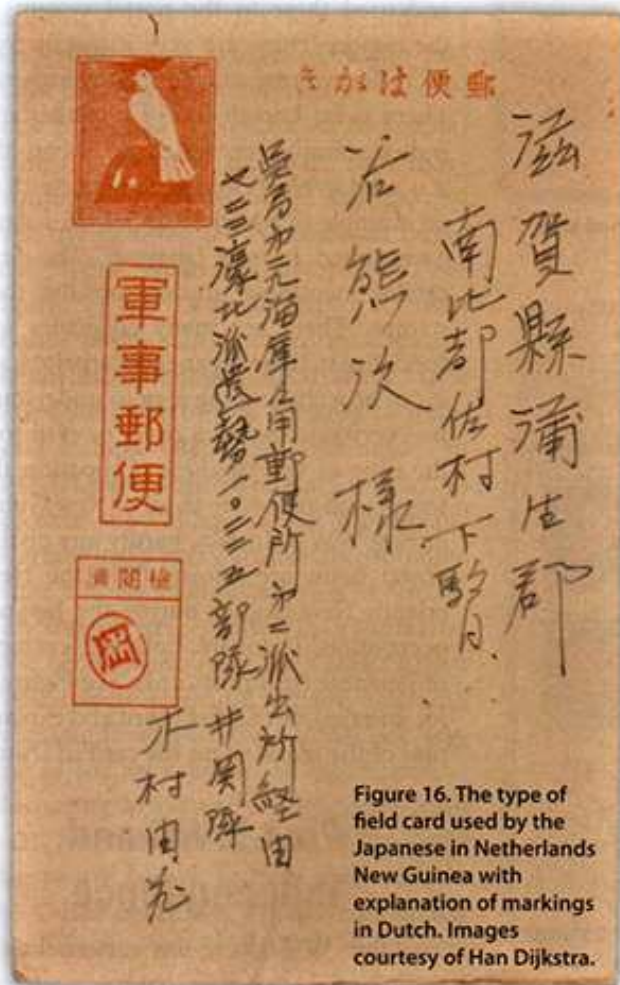


Figure 16. The type of field card used by the Japanese in Netherlands New Guinea with explanation of markings in Dutch. Images courtesy of Han Dijkstra.





Figure 17. An example of three 1-pence Australian stamps on a cover that was sent in 1949 from Papua New Guinea (Australia Scott 191 and 210).



Figure 18. The first day issue of the 1952 Papua and New Guinea first combined kina (Papua New Guinea Scott 122-126).



Figure 19. The first day issue of the 1972 Self-Rule Papua New Guinea issues (Papua New Guinea Scott 340-1).

Up until the start of WWII there were numerous conflicts within various indigenous groups and uprisings against governments. Movements for independence grew throughout New Guinea. The movement for independence was particularly strong on the major islands of the Netherlands Indies, Java and Sumatra.

In 1942 almost all of the Netherlands Indies, including Netherlands New Guinea, the territories of New Guinea, and Papua, were invaded and occupied by Japan. At first, many of the indigenous people welcomed the Japanese as "freeing" their lands. But very quickly, the indigenous people saw the oppressive treatment of the local populations by the Japanese and turned to support the Allies during WWII. There was fierce fighting between the Allies and Japanese on New Guinea throughout the war. The call for independence by the indigenous people, however, would continue to grow throughout the war.

After occupying the Netherlands Indies and New Guinea, the Japanese overprinted numerous stamps from the region, and used these in the postal systems in the region. There are very many of types of these overprints and many forgeries. There is no known use of a Netherlands Indies stamp overprinted by Japan that was used in New Guinea. See Figure 15 for an example of a Netherlands Indies stamp overprinted by the Japanese. The Scott catalog mentions, but does not list, these stamps. There are many collectors who specialize in these Japanese overprints, and it can be a challenging area to understand. It is very rare to find a cover or card from the time of the Japanese occupation that was posted anywhere in all of New Guinea during WWII. In fact, hardly any civilian postal items are known from the Netherlands New Guinea during the Japanese occupation. There are, however, examples of Japanese field post cards. See Figure 16 for an example of a field card and explanation of the marking on the card in Dutch.

Post-WWII and Independence

After WWII, on the eastern half of the island, Australian stamps were used

both in the Territory of New Guinea and Papua until 1952. Figure 17 is an example of Australian stamps being used on a letter sent in 1949 from Papua New Guinea. In 1949, the Territory of New Guinea and Papua were unified. Then new stamps were issued in the name of "Papua and New Guinea" in 1952. See Figure 18 for a first day cover with the first issues from Papua and New Guinea. When self-rule was gained from Australia in 1972, the country's name was changed to Papua New Guinea and stamps were issued as such. Figure 19 illustrates the Papua New Guinea self-rule stamps first day cover with the name change to "Papua New Guinea". Full independence was gained in 1975. See Figure 20 for a souvenir sheet of the two stamps celebrating independence using the new currency, the kina, with 100 toea equaling 1 kina.

Meanwhile, during WWII the independence movement within the Netherlands Indies, led by Sukarno and Mohammad Hatta, grew stronger. After the war ended, on August 17, 1945, Sukarno and Hatta declared independence for Indonesia, which in their own minds included Netherlands New Guinea. Sukarno and Hatta issued many revolutionary "Republik Indonesia" (Republic of Indonesia) stamps from 1945 to 1949, first overprinting Netherlands Indies stamps, and even overprinting the Netherlands Indies stamps that Japan had overprinted. See Figures 21 and 22 for examples of Netherlands Indies stamps overprinted by the "Republik Indonesia". Sukarno and Hatta issued their own official Republic of Indonesia stamps, "Republik Indonesia," in 1948. These stamps were mainly issued to promote the "independence movement" internationally and were heavily promoted in the U.S. by stamp dealer J & H Stolow. The stamps were printed in Vienna and have become known as the Vienna issues. They issued some in a pamphlet with propaganda against the Dutch. See Figure 23 for an example of this pamphlet illustrating a mixture of Indonesia Scott 1-21. None of these Republic of Indonesia stamps are known to have been used in the Dutch-controlled West New Guinea. Interestingly, the spelling of the names on these early stamps in Indonesia varied



Figure 20. The souvenir sheet of the 1975 Papua Independence issues with the new currency, the kina, with 100 toea equaling 1 kina.



Figure 21. Card sent in 1946 with two overprinted Netherlands Indies 1-cent stamps and one 3-cent stamp overprinted with "Republik Indonesia" (Indonesia Scott 1L5 and two 1L1). Front and reverse are included.



Figure 22. "Republik of Indonesia" overprint of Netherlands Indies 17 1/2 cent stamps that had previously been overprinted by the Japanese. These stamps were overprinted in 1946 in Sumatra (Indonesia Scott 2L8).

PAMERAN PRANGKO CETAKAN WINA DI PHILADELPHIA

Museum Perancis Republik di Philadelphia memamerkan pada tanggal 15 Agustus 1948, dengan menyertakan pameran khusus pertama di dunia tahun 1948. Pameran ini mendapat sambutan applaudatif dari Philatelia. Dengan pada waktu itu, telah merupakan arti yang penting sehingga Museum Perancis tersebut mendapat kembali status pameran internasional. Di bawah ini adalah laporan resmi Presiden Sektoral yang dipublikasikan dalam pameran tersebut.

Salah satu masalah yang telah merupakan bagian dari kami adalah masalah yang timbul yang merupakan tantangan perantara antara negara-negara yang berbeda-beda yang semuanya ada memamerkan pada pameran ini.

THE FIRST INDOENSIAN POSTAGE STAMPS PRINTED IN VIENNA

In the late 1940s, to gain their control over the existing Dutch colonial government had very hard to prevent the Indonesian revolution from escalating. They launched a military campaign, but the Indonesian revolutionaries were not only prepared to resist, they were also prepared to fight. One of the actions was to issue the first Indonesian postage stamps. The main objective was to provide the existence of this newly-born republic in the international arena. In 1946, the Indonesian representatives in New York signed an agreement with J. & W. Benson Inc. to issue the Indonesian official stamps. The stamps were designed in 1946. They were (approximately) 100% in terms of A. Wright Bank Note Company in Philadelphia. At that time, such stamps and postage were very important also for international shipping. It was expected that the printing of the first Indonesian postage stamps in the world would attract the attention of the world. So that the existence of the newly born Republic of Indonesia would be internationally recognized. The stamps were the first Indonesian stamps, they were called by the philatelist as "Indonesian stamps printed in Vienna". The first issue of the stamps was done in January 1948. In this issue, the Dutch or the Netherlands printing of 0.10 cent of 1 was also used. But there was significant addition of the printing in the stamp of the first issue in September 1948. The Dutch stamp was then changed to the new Indonesian of 50 cent, giving the word "Republik Indonesia" (Republic). For several editions, some of these stamps were cancelled.

EXHIBITION OF "THE INDOENSIAN STAMPS PRINTED IN VIENNA" IN PHILADELPHIA

In 1948, The National Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia set up an exhibit exhibition of "The Indonesian Stamp Printed in Philadelphia" which was honored by a gold medal from the United States Philatelic Society. The exhibition was so critical in the eyes of most philatelists around the world that Indonesian published a remarkable report on it.

The following is a citation from the speech of President Sukarno:

"For a century the postage stamp has served as an ambassador promoting friendship between people in distant parts of the world and spreading the business of knowledge. As a means of learning geography, history and culture, it has had few rivals."

**PRANGKO REVOLUSI INDONESIA
(Indonesian Revolution Stamps)
Cetakan Wina & Philadelphia
Seri PERTAMA
21 Macam**

Official Agent - Delivery Guaranteed

PRANGKO REVOLUSI CETAKAN WINA

Perjuangan merebut kemerdekaan Republik Indonesia oleh rakyat yang telah memusatkan perhatiannya dan pemerintah Indonesia yang ingin kembali berdaulat di dalam wilayah benua kepulauan. Perjuangan yang memunculkan, Indonesia, menjadi negara merdeka dan negara yang bebas. Perjuangan untuk kebebasan di samping perjuangan kita, internal yang sudah dilakukan, untuk berdamai dengan masyarakat bangsa dengan harapan untuk membangun masyarakat dan pemerintahan Indonesia Indonesia di bawah pemerintahan.

Dasar kemerdekaan Republik Indonesia di New York pada tahun 1945 adalah perjanjian dengan J. & W. Benson Inc., New York untuk mencetak prangko pertama.

Perencanaan pencetakan prangko prangko pertama, dilakukan oleh Dutch-American & Wina dan J. A. Wright Bank Company di Philadelphia.

Sejaknya telah kita ketahui, bahwa pada waktu itu, sebelum kita yang pertama, dalam hal ini kemerdekaan, sehingga kita sebagai bangsa Indonesia tidak terbelah-belah. Dengan kata lain, dengan kata lain, sebagai Indonesia merdeka.

Kemudian prangko-prangko tersebut akan diterbitkan. Untuk alasan dengan ini prangko Cetak Wina Revolution pertama prangko di dunia tahun 1948, tahun yang bertepatan dengan prangko di dunia merupakan huruf OK dari tahun 1948.

Sebagai perjanjian Indonesia pada tahun September 1948 oleh rakyat yang signifikan untuk menggunakan huruf di atas prangko.

Untuk berbagai alasan, dan tahun, beberapa prangko Cetak Wina ini akan juga akan Indonesia, tahun 1948.

Figure 23. The 1948 Republik of Indonesia booklet, containing the so-called "Vienna Issues."



Figure 24. Example of the first "Nieuw Guinea" issued in 1950, after Indonesia's Guinea independence (Netherlands New Guinea Scott B24). Beginning in 1954 "Nederlands Nieuw Guinea" was used on the stamps. An example is the one of the butterfly stamps issued in 1960 (Netherlands New Guinea Scott 21).



Figure 25. Republic of Indonesia stamp overprinted Irian Barat, issued in 1953 (Indonesia West Irian 31).

Figure 26. Comparison of the 1954 Bird of Paradise 1-cent with the overprinted "UNTEA" issued in 1962 (left, Netherlands New Guinea Scott 22 and right, UNTEA Scott 1). The example shown is of the first printing of the UNTEA stamps.

between "Republik" and "Republik" from 1945 until 1949, when "Republik" became the standard for Indonesia.

After numerous armed conflicts between the rebels and the Dutch over several years after WWII, the Dutch agreed to grant independence to Indonesia at the end of 1949. However, this agreement did not include Netherlands New Guinea. The governance of West New Guinea would remain a bitter dispute between the two countries, including a limited armed conflict. The Dutch began to issue "Nieuw Guinea" stamps and stationery in 1950, and then from 1954 they were inscribed "Nederlands Nieuw Guinea", and these were used until 1962. See Figure 24 for the two different types of stamps issued in 1950 and after 1954.

The idea behind first using a rather neutral inscription "New Guinea" (in fact incorrectly, as it was only the western part of the island of New Guinea), was because the Dutch did not want to defy the Indonesians, as negotiations for transfer of the authority were still going on after 1949. Then, when these yielded no results, the new territorial "Nederlands Nieuw Guinea" inscription on the stamps reflected the determination of the Dutch not to give up West New Guinea.

The Dutch had different plans for Netherlands New Guinea than Indonesia. Since the majority of the Papuan populations wished to stay in the Kingdom of the

Netherlands, the Dutch planned to guide the Netherlands New Guinea to self-rule and/or independence. The Dutch intended to create a separate state or a union with the eastern part of New Guinea, to be administered by Australia. The move to self-rule would be under United Nations supervision, but the plan was unacceptable to Indonesia.

In 1961, Indonesia landed paratroops on Netherlands New Guinea, which caused a crisis between Indonesia and the Netherlands. The U.S. mediated a settlement at the U.N. between Indonesia and the Netherlands. On August 15, 1962, the Netherlands and Indonesia agreed that control of the Netherlands New Guinea would be given over to Indonesia during a seven-month transfer period, administered by the U.N. The agreement was supposed to enable the residents of West New Guinea to determine the status of that area in a vote called the "Act of Free Choice" at a later date in 1969.

After the turnover from the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority, West New Guinea became a territory of Indonesia, known as Irian Barat (Barat means western). The name was later changed to Irian Jaya (Jaya means "Glorious"). Indonesia overprinted stamps "Irian Barat," and stamps with both "Irian Barat and Republik Indonesia" were used from 1963 until 1970. For an example of the Irian Barat overprint issued in 1963, see Figure 25. In 1970, West



Figure 27. The first printing in 1962 of the UNTEA stamps on an album page (UNTEA Scott 1-8 shown).



Figure 28. The second printing in 1963 of the UNTEA stamps on an album page (UNTEA Scott 1a-8a shown).



Figure 29. The third printing in 1963 of the UNTEA stamps with the small letters of 14mm in length (UNTEA Scott 1b, 3b-9b shown).

New Guinea was fully incorporated into Indonesia, after the very controversial vote of the "Free Choice Act," when on August 2, 1969, 1,025 men and women selected by the Indonesian military in Western New Guinea voted unanimously in favor of Indonesian control.

Ironically, the incorporation of Irian Barat did not end the conflicts in New Guinea (Map 2). An independence movement to free West New Guinea from Indonesia quickly started up, known as the "Free Papua Movement." Today this protest action is known as the "Papua Conflict." This freedom movement has conducted sporadic guerrilla warfare against the Indonesian military and police in West New Guinea.

The UNTEA Overprinted Stamps

Between October 1962 and the end of April 1963, during the transfer of West New Guinea from Netherlands rule to Indonesian rule, the U.N. administered this region of West New Guinea. It was called the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA). The United Nations Security Force (UNSF) in West Guinea was sent to the region to try and keep the peace. The UNSF was composed of about 1,400 military troops from Pakistan, supported by 14 Canadian and 37 U.S. aircraft and crew. For this very short period of seven months, 19 of 25 values of the definitive sets from 1950-59 and three items of postal stationery, one postcard and two aerogrammes from Netherlands New Guinea were overprinted with the letters "UNTEA" for use in the postal service. See Figure 26 for the comparison of the regular Netherlands New Guinea stamp with the overprinted "UNTEA" issue. The UNTEA stamps (excluding the stationery) were sold locally and also available through the United Nations philatelic bureaus in New York and Geneva.



Figure 30. The fourth printing in 1963 of the UNTEA stamps with the large letters of 19mm in length (UNTEA Scott 1c and 5c).



Figure 31. A cover with mixed printings of "UNTEA." For example, on the bottom row, the 20-cent is the small letter third printing, the 15-cent is the second printing and the 12- and 7-cent are the first printing stamps.



Figure 32. A comparison of the first printing of the UNTEA overprints – at left, in which the letter "N" is lower than the letter "U" – compared to the second printing.



Figure 33. Examples of the inverts of the first printing of the UNTEA stamps.



Figure 34. Example of the fake Hoorn inverts.



Figure 35. Suspected fake inverted overprinted UNTEA on an 85-cent stamp.



Figure 36. Double overprint on first printing 17-cent UNTEA stamp.



Figure 36b. An example of a "ghost double printing" on the 2-gulden stamp.



Figure 37. Forgeries of the third printing with the small letters.

When I first started collecting the UNTEA issues I was confused somewhat by the different printings of the overprints of "UNTEA" on the same stamp values. I am not an expert on these stamps, but the collectors of this topic are fortunate to have a book that was produced by the "Studiegroep ZWP" called the *Plaatsfouten en (op) drukafwijkingen Nederlands Nieuw-Guinea en UNTEA (Plate errors and (on) pressure deviations Dutch New Guinea and UNTEA)*. Some of this book is translated into English, including the section on the UNTEA issues.

The ZWP book goes into much detail on the types of the printings and variety overprints of UNTEA, some of which is not in the scope of this article, which focuses on the UNTEA issues listed in the *Dutch NVPH Speciale 2020 Catalogus* (known hereafter as NVPH).

During the short period of use of the UNTEA stamps and stationery, there were four basic different overprints, varying in type and size. In addition, there were inverts, double printings, missing letters and other varieties of the position of the letters, as well as custom-made-on-request philatelic items. Philatelic forgeries also exist. Most of the forgeries are easy to spot, but some are very good



Figure 38. The fourth printing large letters UNTEA 10-cent, one inverted in a block of 4.



Figure 39. The fourth printing large letters UNTEA 10-cent, one missing the "N" in a block of 4.



Figure 40. The fourth printing large letters UNTEA 1 cent inverted.

copies of the real overprints. There are some disputes among experts about whether certain overprints are genuine or forgeries. My favorite quote from the ZWP book is, "To quote a senior specialist in the field of UNTEA, 'UNTEA is a maze'. Conclusion: besides a lot of fun, collecting UNTEA is bound to give you serious headaches."

There are four different major types of the printing listed in the NVPH catalog. The first printing is listed by the NVPH as being issued in 1962 and with the numbers 1-19. The length of the overprinted letters in the first printing is 17mm. See Figure 27 for a partial album page of these first printings (UNTEA Scott 1-19). The second printing is listed as being printed in 1963 and with the NVPH numbers of 20-38. See Figure 28 for a partial page of the second printing of these issues (UNTEA Scott 1a-19a). The letter length of the second printing overprints is 17½mm. The third printing, also issued in 1963, is listed in NVPH with the numbers of 39-46 and consisted of only 8 values (the five birds of paradise and the three crown pigeons) overprinted with smaller letters of 14mm in length. Figure 29 shows examples of the third printing (UNTEA Scott 1b, 3b-9b).

The fourth printing, again issued in 1963, has only two values overprinted in larger letters, 19mm in length, and are listed as NVPH 47-48 (Figure 30). When looking at covers with UNTEA overprints, it can be confusing because some philatelic covers made on request contain a mixture of these different printings, and some postmarks are backdated to 1962, before some of the stamps were even issued. Figure 31 illustrates a mixed cover with both the 1962 and 1963 overprints.

The most difficult printings to distinguish are the first and second overprint printings. The first overprinting of UNTEA was printed by an American printer,



Figure 41. The fourth printing large letters UNTEA 1 cent, one missing the "N" in a strip of three.



Figure 42. Souvenir given to one of the Pakistani troops.



Figure 43. Custom-made cover with normal and inverted UNTEA stamps.

Intertype, and sheets of 100 Netherlands New Guinea issued stamps were overprinted. There was an underestimation of the number of stamps needed, and a second printing in 1963 was made by the Dutch company, Johan Enschede & Sons of Haarlem. Since the old printing plates used by Intertype were destroyed, new plates had to be made, with new letters. As a result, minor revisions were made in some of the letters. The main item to note is that on the first printing, the letter "N" is lower than the letter "U" in "UNTEA". See Figure 32 for a close up of the letters "UN".

The first printing has many different varieties. The Scott catalog does not mention the many different varieties and we have to rely on the NVPH catalog. The NVPH lists inverts for 12 of the values, the 1-, 5-, 10-, 12-, 15-, 17-, 20-, 30-, 45-, 55- and 80-cent and the 2-guilder (gld) stamps. NVPH gives the denotation of "f" for the inverts.

The ZWP book lists 14 inverts, including the 85-cent and 5-gld values. Figure 33 shows some examples of the inverted overprints. The ZWP states that "Dangerous forgeries exist with the Type II (the second printing of 1963) overprint. These are known



Figure 44. Medal given to military who participated in the UNTEA operations.

as the Hoorn forgeries in the philatelic trade (Hoorn is a town in the province of Noord-Holland). See Figure 34 for some examples of the suspected Hoorn forgeries of inverts. Han Dijkstra, one of the authors of the ZWP and an expert on the UNTEA issues, states he has not spoken to any dealers or collectors who can give more information on why these forgeries are called "Hoorn" forgeries. The ZWP book suggests that all inverted overprints with the second printing UNTEA are always forgeries and usually are the Hoorn forgeries. The NVPH catalog states the inverted 85-cent value is probably a forgery. Figure 35 shows the inverted UNTEA on the 85-cent stamp. The ZWP book states that five copies each have been seen of the 30-cent and 5-gulden inverts, and the NVPH, states that 95 copies of the 30-cent value were destroyed intentionally, so that the remaining five 30-cent inverts would be rare. It is reported that only one of the inverted overprints of the 5-gulden value may actually exist.

Both the NVPH catalog and ZWP book list only one true double printing of the 17-cent value, numbered 8fa. Figure 36a is an example of the double printing on the 17-cent value. There



Figure 45. A 7-cent UNTEA postcard. Image courtesy of Han Dijkstra.



Figure 46. A 15-cent UNTEA aerogramme. Image courtesy of Han Dijkstra.



Figure 47. A 35-cent UNTEA aerogramme. Image courtesy of Han Dijkstra.



Figure 48. A 7-cent UNTEA postcard with extra stamps as part of the radio station (Radio Omroep Nieuw-Guinea) promotion. Image courtesy of Han Dijkstra.

are also double faint or "bouncing" overprints, as mentioned by ZWP. These images also are called "ghost images," as seen in Figure 36b. The NPVH lists six of these values, the 20-, 30- and 55-cents and the 1-, 2- and 5-gulden values, and gives them the denotation of "fb." The ZWP book mentions eight values, adding the 1-, 5-, 10-, 20- and 55-cents, and the 1-, 2- and 5-gulden values. However, the ZWP book does not list the 30-cent value.

Thankfully, there are not many known varieties with the overprints in the third printing with the small letters. However, there are some forgeries of these small letters that have thinner letters, also with invert that are forgeries. There are no known legitimate inverts of the third printing. Figure 37 shows some examples of forgeries of the third printing with the small letter.

Just one or two days after the third printing overprints were issued, two values with the fourth printing of larger UNTEA letters were released. These two values were the 1- and 10-cent values. Two major varieties were seen with these values. The 10-cent value has an inverted overprint, as well as an overprint missing the "N" in UNTEA. NVPH lists these as 48fa for the invert and the missing "N" as the 48fb stamp. Figures 38 and 39 are examples with the invert and missing the "N." These inverts and missing "N" issues are also noted in the ZWP book. The inverted value of the 1-cent with larger letters is listed in NVPH as 47fa. This inverted overprint is also noted in the ZWP book. Figure 40 shows the inverted overprint on the 1-cent with larger letters. Not mentioned in the NVPH catalog is the 1-cent missing the "N" in UNTEA, although the ZWP book does mention it. See Figure 41 for an example of the 1-cent missing the "N" in the UNTEA.

There are many different types of custom-made UNTEA philatelic items, such as ones made on the last day of the UNTEA, or a last day cover. See Figure 42 for ones made for one



Figure 49. The United Nations produced a cachet on August 15, 1962, to commemorate the agreement between Netherlands and Indonesia (UN New York Scott 98).



Figure 50. A UN commemorative of UNTEA on the first anniversary, October 1, 1963 (UN New York Scott 118).

of the Pakistani troops. There are many other philatelic custom-made UNTEA items, such as covers with inverted and regular overprinted stamps. An example of a mixed cover with an inverted overprint and a normal overprint is in Figure 43. A medal, issued for the troops serving in the United Nations Special Forces in West New Guinea is shown in Figure 44.

There were three UNTEA postal stationery issues: one 7-cent postcard and two aerogrammes with 15-cent and 35-cent values, each issued with three different types of overprints. Figures 45, 46 and 47 are examples of the 7-cent postcard and the two aerogramme values. A radio station (Radio Omroep Nieuw-Guinea) used the 7-cent postcard for a promotion for the sender to request to play a song and raise money for charity by adding additional postage. An example of one of these postcards is in Figure 48. As a result, many of these postcard promotions are available in the philatelic market. There is a very interesting article in English on the Netherlands + Philately website about these postcards used in the radio promotion in more detail (<https://www.netpha.nl/?s=untea>).

In addition, the United Nations issued philatelic material, such as the cachet shown in Figure 49 commemorating the agreement between the Netherlands and Indonesia. The U.N.

issued its own UNTEA commemorative stamps on October 1, 1963, as shown in Figure 50. Also Pakistan issued a stamp commemorating the Pakistani military participation in the UNTEA forces issued in 1963 with a 13-paisa Pakistan stamp overprinted "U.N. Force West Irian" as seen in Figure 51.

Another great quote from the ZWP book sums up the feelings of collecting UNTEA to many collectors. "There are also highly refined forgeries. To the best of our knowledge a complete list of forgeries has not been drawn up yet. A UNTEA collector was recently heard to say, 'Make sure you have plenty of the right stuff, and then you needn't bother about the forgeries.'"

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank Ivo Spanjersberg for helping with the images as well as thanking Han Dijkstra, the author of the UNTEA part of the ZWP book, for giving me valuable information and some images that helped immensely in writing and publishing this article.

Also, the covers in Figure 11 are extremely rare. I am indebted to Glen Stephens of Glen Stephens Stamps, Sydney, Australia for permission to reproduce the images.

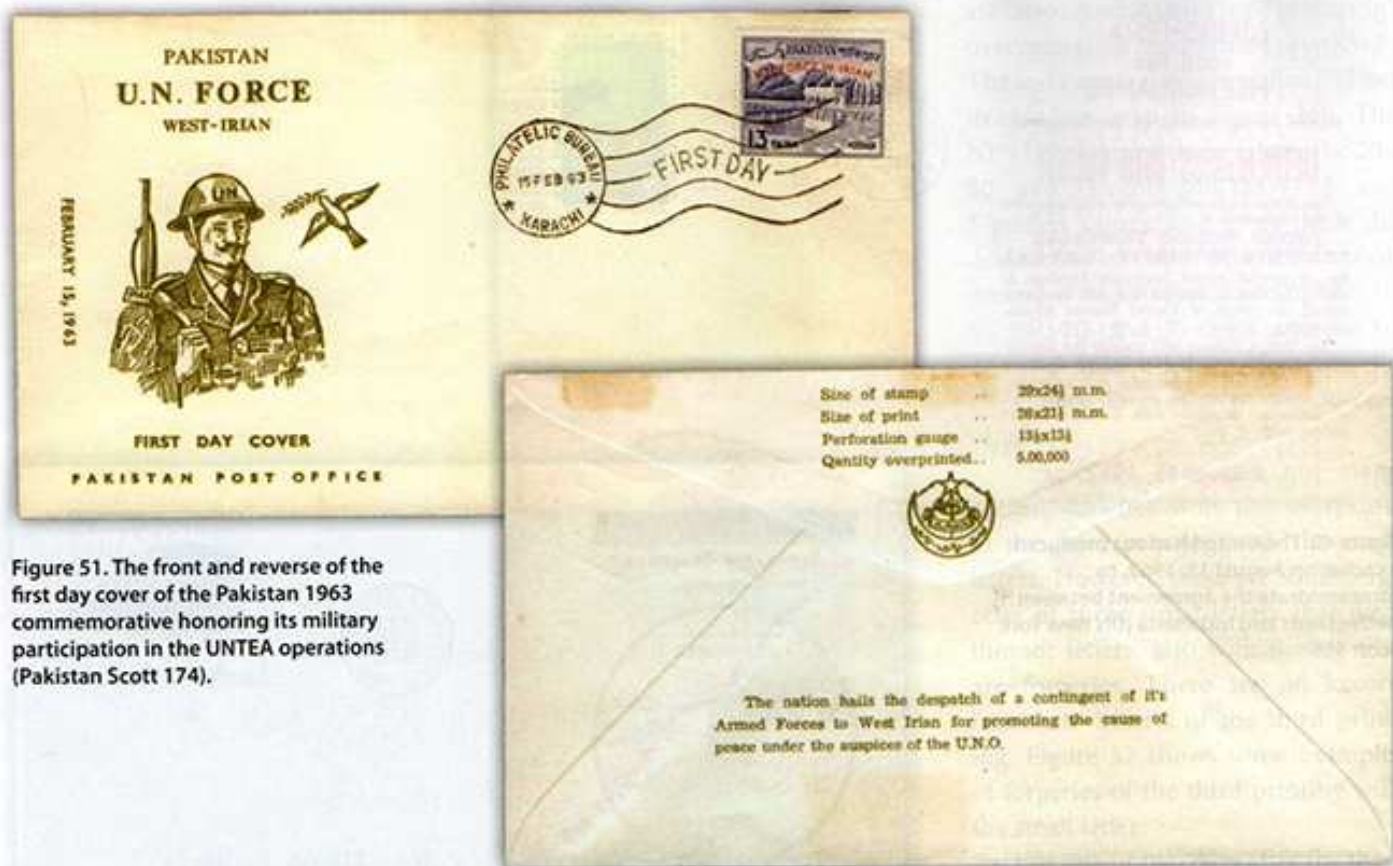


Figure 51. The front and reverse of the first day cover of the Pakistan 1963 commemorative honoring its military participation in the UNTEA operations (Pakistan Scott 174).

REFERENCES

Dijkstra, Han, Nico de Weijer, Joop Hoogenboom and Henk Teunis. *Plaatfouten en (op)drukafwijkingen Nederlands Nieuw-Guinea en UNTEA* [Plate flaws and overprint varieties of Netherlands New Guinea and UN-

TEA] (Studiegroep ZWP, 2008).

Klug, Janet. "Stamps document the complex political evolution of New Guinea. Stamps Down Under," *Linn's Stamp News* (March 25, 2016).
Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue (Sidney, Ohio: Amos Media).

The Author

A life member of the American Philatelic Society, Robert Finder is a retired biotech executive with a chemical engineering degree. Robert and his wife Sheryl moved to Australia 20 years ago from the New York area, where he worked for Australia's largest pharmaceutical company at the time. What was supposed to be a business stay of three years turned into the decision to remain in Australia and eventually retire on the beachfront near Adelaide, South Australia. Robert specializes in collecting stamps of the Netherlands and Colonies and Bhutan. He also specializes in Korean stamps, including Korean TB/Christmas and New Year Seals. He is a member of the American Society for Netherlands Philately, Netherlands Philatelic Circle (UK), Korean Stamp Society and the Nepal and Tibet Philatelic Study Circle. Robert has written a number of articles for the Korean Stamp Society and the American Society for Netherlands Philately.

FOR FURTHER LEARNING

Recommendations from the APRL research staff:

Plaatfouten en (op)drukafwijkingen Nederlands Nieuw-Guinea en UNTEA 1950-1963 = Plate flaws and overprint varieties of Netherlands New Guinea and UNTEA by N. J. Weijer, Joop Hoogenboom, Henk Teunis, Joop Hoogenboom, Joop, Han Dijkstra. Rijswijk: The Netherlands Study Group, 2008. [G8073 .I7 W419p]

"Types and Varieties of 'UNTEA' Overprints" by Arleigh Gaines. *Linn's Stamp News*, May 6, 1996.

"UNTEA (Netherlands New Guinea) First Day Covers of 1962" by Anon. *United Nations Philatelists*, April 1994.

"UNTEA Overprints" by Anon. *Papuan Philatelic Society Stamp News*, 1965.

"The UNTEA Overprints on Dutch New Guinea Stationery" by Hans Hilbers. *Postal Stationery*, Sep-Oct, 1964.

