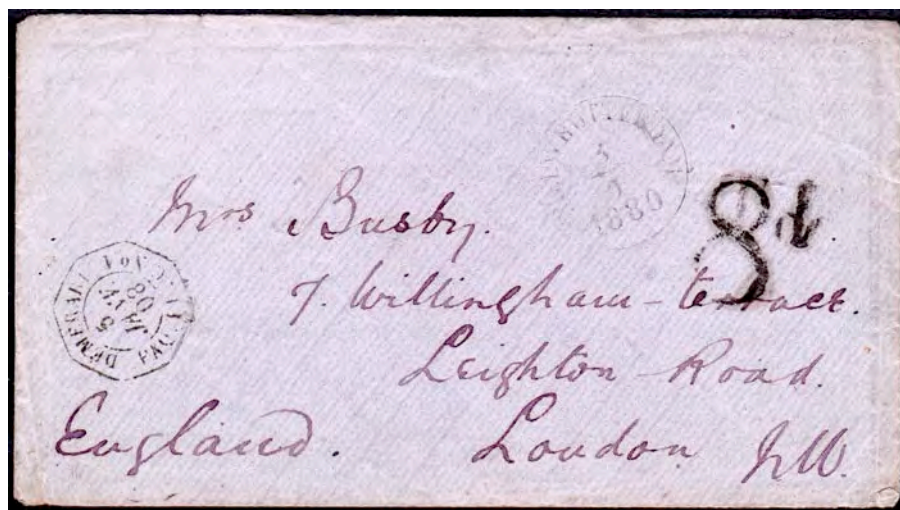




**Errata and Addenda (September 2023)**

# **Postal Routes to the Dutch Possessions in West Africa, West Indies and Suriname 1652 to 1919**

## **A Guide to Dutch Maritime Mail**



**Sven Pålman FRPSL**

**The Royal Philatelic Society London 202**



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# **Postal Routes to the Dutch Possessions in West Africa, West Indies and Suriname 1652 to 1919 A Guide to Dutch Maritime Mail**

## **Errata and Addenda (September 2023)**

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### **Acknowledgements**

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#### **1. Introduction**

In September 2021, the Royal Philatelic Society, London, published my monograph entitled 'Postal Routes to the Dutch Possessions in West Africa, West Indies and Suriname 1652 to 1919. A Guide to Dutch Maritime Mail'. The book content spans over almost 300 years of mail contacts with the Dutch possessions in the west and I show several tables listing letters sent by infrequently used mail routes and/or carriers, with rare handstamp markings or adhesives of early issues etc. Now more than two years after the manuscript was delivered to the printer, new auction material has been brought to light that, if recorded before the book was printed, would have extended several of these tables. Likewise, a few of the figures summarizing handstamp markings with carrier or postal route information should have been complemented with additional markings 'discovered' on newly recorded postal items. In the Addenda section I will list newly recorded letters, some with important markings used on mail to/from the Dutch possessions in the west. In particular, I will discuss the content of a couple of extensive correspondences with letters that fall within the categories that I have recorded in a table format in the book.

A less flattering (at least for me) aspect of forwarding a manuscript to the printer is that the mistakes that are in the text will go into print. Regarding my book, most of them are typos and I have spotted a few, which I will not correct here, except for two of them. There are not many of the described letters that involve names of a Swedish person, but the letter shown in Fig. 2.5 does. In the Figure legend I mention ‘Hans Amundsson Besk’ three times with two different spellings. I have to admit that both versions were wrongly spelt....

In the text that follows, I will in an Errata chapter correct *de facto* mistakes and discuss misinterpretations of information that was available when I wrote the text and in an Addenda chapter I will highlight newly recorded letters and important ‘new’ discoveries based on letters that I have recorded after my book was printed.

## 2. Errata

### 2.1. General comment

The provenance of a philatelic object is an important piece of information that ideally should follow rare items, but regarding postal items to/from the Dutch colonies, many auction firms frequently miss to report previous ownerships. I have struggled with this problem in my book and the ambition has been to document the provenance(s) of rare letters whenever it was known to me. When I wrote the book, I was unaware of Gerard van Welie’s important collection of Dutch West Indies postal history and five of his letters were highlighted in separate figures without mentioning Gerard’s ownership, namely Figs. 3.8, 4.22, 4.119, 5.34 and 5.81. The letters shown in the last four figures were later transferred to Deo van Wijk’s collection, which in turn has been transferred to new owner(s) after Deo’s recent death.

### 2.2. Curaçao and the Dutch Caribbean Islands Errata

The second paragraph of p. 36 was unfortunately duplicated, i.e. last paragraph p. 36 to p. 37.

Regarding the WH (Committé tot den West-Indischen Handel) markings (pp. 44-46, Table 4.4 and Fig. 4.15), there are two types known. As I write, most impressions on recorded letters are poor and I could not distinguish any letter with the smaller, type 2, version. However, the letter dated on April 18, 1792, listed in Table 4.4, is marked with the smaller, type 2, handstamp, primarily identified based on the size of the marking according to Frank Banke and Deo van Wijk, the latter bought the letter from John Jackson. Here I show the letter in Fig. 2.1.



**Figure 2.1.** Letter dated at Curaçao on 18 April 1792 and sent to Amsterdam ‘pr. Capt. W. Piertz’. Upon arrival in Den Haag, the letter was marked with the type 2, 6 st WH handstamp. This is the only recorded letter marked with the WH handstamp of the smaller size i.e. type 2 (Ex. Jackson and van Wijk collections).

Table 4.6B and top-sentence p. 54. The letter dated April 19, 1813, was sent to, not from, Porto Cabello and is not an incoming letter. Thus, there is no recorded example of the fleuron type handstamps used to mark incoming mail.

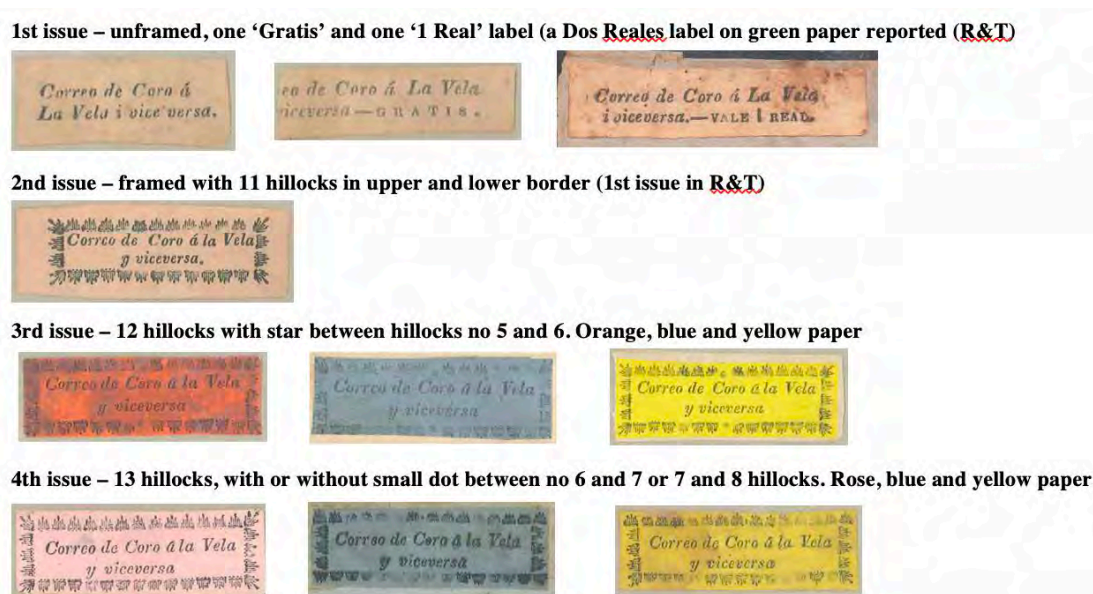
The letter shown in Fig. 4.31, listed in Table 4.9 and discussed on p. 61, turns out to be dated November 30, 1826, not 1825 (John J. Jackson, Gerard van Welie and Deo van Wijk, personal communications). This means that the letter was not sent to the Netherlands by the first return trip by a Dutch packet boat (as stated in Julsen and Benders, 1976), in this case *De Zwaluw*. According to the time table of the Dutch packet boats (Gouvernements-Pakketbooten) listed by Delbeke (2002), the letter was most likely transferred at the third return voyage of *De Zwaluw*, as she left Curaçao on December 4, 1826.

Fig. 4.70, p. 97. An additional difference between the two ‘Liverpool over Curaçao’ handstamp types is that ‘o’ in ‘Curaçao’ is smaller in the ‘c’ marking than in markings ‘a’ and ‘b’.

Fig. 4.99, pp. 120 - 122, correction of the legend. According to records, the RDL 1 handstamp was at least used between August 1885 and August 1886, which should be stated also in the text and in the Postmark Catalogue (6.10).

Table 4.20. I have numbered the route marks wrongly in the table. NL 6a and b should be NL 8a and b, NL 7 should be NL 9, Cu 4 should be Cu 6 and Cu 5 should be Cu 7.

On pp. 139 - 144, I describe the different issues and use of the Coro – La Vela labels and stamps. In Fig. 4.124, I proposed the order at which the different issues were released based on recorded letters. These labels (and letters) were never marked with a date stamp, which means that the period that a given label issue was used can only be determined from intact, dated, letters. In early 2022, a lot with five letters with these labels was sold by Heritage Auctions Europe, auction no. 73. One of these and two more newly recorded letters, made it clear that the 1st and 2nd issues proposed by me in Fig. 4.124, should be the other way around (see the corrected figure, Fig. 2.2, in this text).



**Figure 2.2.** Issued Coro – La Vela, Venezuela, labels (From Deo van Wijk’s exhibit presented at Dutch National in Gouda, 2019, but modified and extended). R&T (Ringström & Tester, 1976).



In an article published in The London Philatelist (Påhlman, 2022), I have discussed in more detail these new findings and listed them in an updated Table, which is shown here as part of a further updated Table 4.23, now divided into an A and B table. As a consequence of this reassessment, the figure legends of Figs. 4.126 and 4.127 should also be corrected as the letter in Fig. 4.126 bears a 2nd issue label while the letter in Fig. 4.127 bears a 1st issue label.

**Updated Table 4.23A. Letters sent to Curaçao with Coro – La Vela adhesives 1863 – 1870 (see Fig. 4.124, here Fig. 2.2)**

| Date                     | Description  | Provenance                                     |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| 1st issue ‘Gratis’ label |  |  |
| +1863-07-21              | Letter sent to Curaçao   | H Vleeming certificate<br>HAE* 73, 2022        |
| +1863-10-08              | Letter sent to Sr S E L Maduro, Curaçao  |  |
| 1867-12-14               | Letter sent by schooner ‘ <i>Susanet</i> ’ to Sr S E L Maduro with ‘ <b>Gratis</b> ’ label. Fig. 4.127   |  |
| 2nd issue label          |  |  |
| +1864-11-17              | Letter sent to Curaçao to Sr. David A Senior   | DvW  |
| 1865-07-21               | Letter sent by schooner ‘ <i>Henrietta</i> ’ to Sr. Saml Curiel. Fig. 4.126  | DvW  |
| 3rd issue label          |  |  |
| +1868-12-21              | Letter sent to Sr S E L Maduro, Curaçao. <b>Orange</b> label   | HAE 73, 2022                                   |
| +1869-03-05              | Letter to Sr David A Senior to Curaçao. <b>Yellow</b> label  | Ex. Rosich, Biern and<br>Borberg, Feldman 2022 |
| +1869-03-08              | Letter sent to Sr Samuel Curiel, Curaçao. <b>Orange</b> label  | HAE 73, 2022                                   |
| 1869-04-13               | Letter to Sr David A Senior to Curaçao 14/4. <b>Blue</b> label. Fig. 4.128   | Ex. Berg, SP                                   |
| 1869-04-1?               | Letter to Sr. Samuel Curiel to Curaçao 14/4. 30 cents due. <b>Orange</b> label   | Gärtner 2014                                   |
| 1869-07-01               | Letter sent by ‘ <i>Paq. de la Vela</i> ’ to Sr. Samuel Curiel to Curaçao 4/7. <b>Orange</b> label. Fig. 4.128                                   | DvW  |
| 1869-09-21               | Letter sent by ‘ <i>San Nicolas</i> ’ to Sr. Samuel Curiel to Curaçao 24/9. <b>Blue</b> label  | DvW  |
| 1870-02-??               | Letter sent by either ‘ <i>Paq. de la Vela</i> ’ or ‘ <i>San Nicolas</i> ’ to Sr. Samuel Curiel to Curaçao 10/2. <b>Yellow</b> label. Fig. 4.128 | DvW  |
| 1870-05-20               | Letter to Sr David A Senior. <b>Orange</b> label   | Ex. Holcombe, Gebauer,<br>d’Adda, Spink 2015   |
| 1870-06-17               | Letter sent by schooner ‘ <i>Nicolaze</i> ’ to Sr S E L Maduro to Curaçao 19/6. <b>Blue</b> label  | DvW  |
| 1870-07-21               | Letter sent by schooner ‘ <i>Cumarebo</i> ’ to Sr S E L Maduro. <b>Yellow</b> label  | DvW  |
| 1870-07-27               | Letter sent by schooner ‘ <i>La Gracia de Dios</i> ’ to Sr S E L Maduro to Curaçao 1/8. <b>Orange</b> label                                      | DvW  |
| +No date                 | Letter to Sr Samuel Curiel. <b>Orange</b> label  | Corinphila-NL 257                              |
| No date                  | Letter to Sr David A Senior. <b>Yellow</b> label   | Castillo (2011)                                |
| 4th issue label          |  |  |
| 1870-06-30               | Letter from San Luis sent by schooner ‘ <i>Miss</i> ’ to Sr Saml Curiel. <b>Blue</b> label   | DvW  |
| +1870-07-18              | Letter sent to Sr S E L Maduro, Curaçao. <b>Blue</b> label   | HAE 73, 2022                                   |
| +1870-??-??              | Letter to Sr S E L Maduro, Curaçao. <b>Yellow</b> label  | HAE 73, 2022                                   |

\*Heritage Auctions Europe. +New record

After my article was published in The London Philatelist (Påhlman, 2022) and as a consequence of the article, I was contacted by Postzegelveiling Corinphila and they provided me with a scan of a letter with a yellow 5th issue Coro – La Vela label. However, they alerted to me that the expert in the field, Henk Vleeming, doubts that this yellow label, and the pink label shown in my book (Fig. 4.124) are genuinely from the early 1870s. Thus, issue 5 of these labels are questioned and I have preferred to remove this issue from the new Table 4.23A and the Figure shown here (Fig. 2.2). It should also be noted that most of the ‘newly’ recorded issue 3 and 4 letters listed in Table 4.23A have not (to my knowledge) been expertized.

### 2.3. Suriname and the Dutch Guiana River Valleys of the ‘Wild Coast’ Errata

The early postal history of the Guiana river valleys, with several short periods of British and French occupation up till the Napoleonic Wars, where after the northern valleys became British possessions and later British Guiana, provides the collector with many opportunities to find

interesting and rare letters. Since my book was published, a couple of very interesting collections came into the market, which will be discussed below (chapter 3.4). One mistake from my side, although explained by the lockdown of the society, including philatelic libraries, during the Covid 19 pandemic, was that I did not and could not consult the classic work on British Guiana philately and postal history, namely the monograph from 1970 by W.A. Townsend and F.G. Howe. If I had taken into account their study, a few more letters should have been highlighted in Tables 5.3 and 5.4B and one more Demerary handstamp marking should have been listed. I will discuss that further in chapter 3.4.

p. 164, Figure 5.16 legend: Should be (..... for 150 – 300 miles).

p. 164. I have recorded ‘four’, not ‘three’ letters marked with the first Suriname handstamp type, as stated later in the text and recorded in Table 5.4C.

p. 165, Figure 5.19 legend: Period of use of BO-Su12 should be 7.1813 – 9.1813. See also newly recorded letters with a new type of the Suriname fleuron mark.

p. 168. Table 5B. should be Table 5.4B.

## 2.4. Postmark Catalogue Errata

p. 234. The recorded period for the BO-Su12 handstamp type should be 7.1813 – 9.1813.

p. 240. NL8 refers wrongly to NL 6a and b, should be NL 8a and b (see Fig. 5.79).

## 2.5. Appendices Errata

The 3 cents printed matter period is missing in the original postage table and according to Erfmann and Stuut (2013), the 5 cents UPU printed matter rate was valid from February 1880 with a short period of lowered printed matter UPU postage from April 1888 to July 1889.

### A.1.2. Postages of postcards and printed matters sent as mail. Postages in cents<sup>^</sup>

| Date       | Postcards to NL | Postcards to UPU | Printed matters to NL | Printed matters to UPU |
|------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1877-05-01 | 12.5*           | 12.5#*           | 7.5*                  | -                      |
| 1879-04-01 | 7.5*            | 7.5#*            | 5*                    | -                      |
| 1880-02-18 | 7.5*            | 7.5*             | 5*                    | 5*                     |
| 1888-04-01 | 7.5*            | 7.5*             | 5*                    | 2.5?#                  |
| 1889-07-20 | 7.5*            | 7.5*             | 3**                   | 5*                     |
| 1903-01-01 | 5               | 5                | 2.5                   | 2.5                    |

\*Including sea-surcharge, 7.5 and 2.5 cents, respectively. \*\*0.5 cent sea surcharge. #Not allowed, but several postcards to GPU/UPU countries documented. #According to Erfmann and Stuut (2013). <sup>^</sup>The sea-surcharge on mail sent from NL to the Dutch colonies was discarded from July 1, 1892.

## 3. Addenda

### 3.1. General Comment

The idea behind listing subsets of rare letters in Tables was initially my strategy to get a grip of existing material, which first of all structured my writing but also helped me to decide what topics

should be brought up in the book. When I now summarize the new records during the more than two years following the submission of the book files, I focus primarily on ‘interesting’ letters, i.e. letters that are unusual and/or highly sought after by collectors. This means that I, in some cases, will not highlight single ‘new’ examples of large correspondences, as I don’t think this kind of information will contribute to a deeper understanding or wider view of the type of correspondences to/from the Dutch possessions in the West that can be found.

### 3.2. New Records – Dutch West Africa

Since the book was published I have recorded two additional letters from the Van den Bossche correspondence, i.e. letters sent to Elmina in 1857, which means that I currently have recorded 8 letters from the Van den Bossche correspondence (one of the six previously recorded letters was not included in the Table 3.1A, so I publish the updated table here). Presently, I have recorded 26 letters and two newspaper wrappers to/from Dutch West Africa, 15 incoming and 13 outgoing items during the Dutch period up to 1872.

**Updated Table 3.1A. Recorded letters to Dutch West Africa**

| Date   | To Elmina   | Provenance                |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| <b>Ship letters</b>                            |   |                           |
| 1764-?-?                                       | Letter from La Rochefoucauld to ‘Fort St George D’Elmina’, ‘Côte de Guinee’* Fig. 3.5   | Lugdunum 97               |
| 1857-05-?                                      | Letter privately forwarded from Rotterdam to London 18/5. Forwarded by Havenith & Co, London. Sent ‘pr Sydney Hall’ to Elmina. 8 d ship letter due**  | Ex. Sacher<br>Spink 16036 |
| <b>Per ‘Mail’</b>                              |   |                           |
| <b>Regular packets (African Steam Ship Co)</b> |   |                           |
| +1857-04-17                                    | Letter sent from Rotterdam to Elmina ‘via Plymouth per African Steamer Paid till Cape Coast Castle’**   | vD 531                    |
| 1857-04-18                                     | Prepaid letter (100 c) from Rotterdam per mail via London (20/4), Plymouth (21/4) to Cape Coast Castle by <i>Candace</i> (endorsed ‘18 Mei per mailboot’). ‘1/4’ (1 sh 4 d) British and ‘1’ d Gold Coast postage shares** Fig. 3.16 | SP                        |
| 1857-04-?                                      | Double rate (2 sh) letter privately forwarded from Rotterdam to London 21/4, there forwarded by Havenith & Co, London to Plymouth 22/4 and sent ‘pr <i>Candace</i> ’ to Elmina. ‘2’ d Gold Coast share**                            | Ex. Sacher, SP            |
| +1857-05-??                                    | Pre-paid letter from Rotterdam sent ‘p <i>Sidney Hall</i> ’ to London (18/5) and forwarded by Havenith & Co, London, to Elmina**  | Ex. Sacher                |
| 1857-05-20                                     | Pre-paid double rate letter from Rotterdam (Franco) sent via London 22/5 and Plymouth 23/5 per <i>Ethiope</i> . 2 sh 8 d and 2 d British and Gold Coast Credits, respectively**   | Ex. Sacher<br>Spink 16036 |
| +1857-06-17                                    | Prepaid (Franco marking) double rate letter from, Rotterdam via London (22 JU) and ‘via Plymouth per African Steamer Paid till Cape Coast Castle’ to Elmina**   | vD 531                    |
| 1857-09-09                                     | Unpaid letter from Bandoeng via Batavia, Singapore and Southampton (due endorsements ‘70’ and ‘10 d’). Sent by <i>Ethiope</i> to Elmina. Readdressed via London 6/11 1859 to Banka 19/2 1861** Fig. 3.8                             | Ex. Sacher<br>Spink 16036 |
| 1857-10-10                                     | From Rotterdam via London 12/10 and Plymouth (13/10) forwarded by Leescombe & Driscoll, Plymouth and sent to Elmina**   | Lugdunum 108              |
| 1868-08-06                                     | 20+20 c letter from The Hague via London (8/8 -68) to Elmina. Accountancy notations ‘7’ and ‘1’ in red crayon, 1 d for colonial and 6 d for ASSC service. Fig. 3.6  | S. Pieters                |
| 1871-10-27                                     | 10 c newspaper wrapper from ‘sGravenhage via London (28/10) per <i>Eboe</i> to J.H. Ferguson, last governor of Elmina# Fig. 3.7   | S. Pieters                |
| 1871-72?                                       | 5+5 c newspaper wrapper probably from ‘sGravenhage via England to J.H. Ferguson, Elmina#  | N. de Weijer              |
| 1872-01-09                                     | 10+10+10+10+ c letter from ‘sGravenhage via London (11/1) to J.H. Ferguson British accountancy notations ‘7’ and ‘1’ in red crayon#   | Corinphila files          |
| <b>Other Destinations</b>                      |   |                           |
| 1857-01-19                                     | Prepaid (140 c) letter from Amsterdam sent per mail via London (22/1), Plymouth (23/1) per <i>Candace</i> to <b>Oil Rivers, Old Calabar</b> . British acc note ‘1/8’ Fig. 3.11  | Ex. Sacher, SP            |

\*La Rochefoucauld correspondence. \*\*Van den Bossche correspondence. #Ferguson correspondence. +New records.



A few additional letters sent to Dutch factories after 1872 have also been recorded. The correspondence from the Netherlands kept to our days was sent during a short period, i.e. between late 1885 and 1889. I have also recorded two very interesting letters sent in 1880 and 1881, respectively, from Switzerland to the Dutch factory at Monrovia, Liberia. One of the letters is shown in Fig. 3.1.



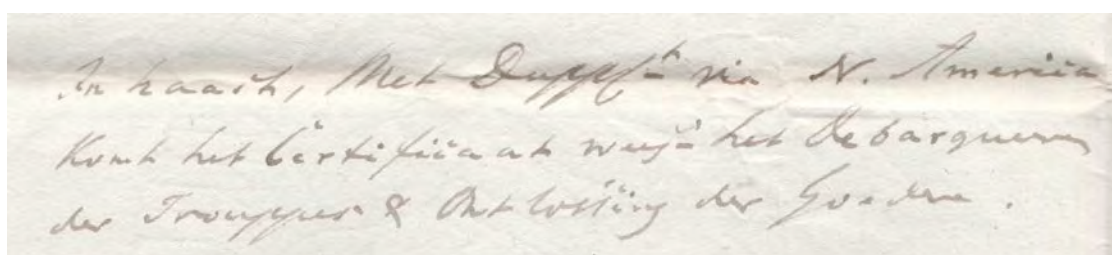
**Figure 3.1.** Double-rate letter sent from Switzerland via Liverpool to the Dutch factory at Monrovia, where the letter arrived on September 27, 1881 (Ex. A. Benz, Bach auction 2018).

### 3.3. New Records – Curaçao and the Dutch Caribbean Islands

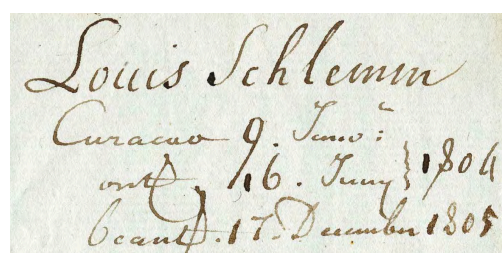
#### 3.3.1. Pre-philatelic period

p. 46. Eighteenth century letters from St Eustatius are fairly common. By the end of that century and beginning of the 19th century, St Eustatius was occupied in periods by either the British or the French (Table 4.1). There are not many letters recorded from these periods, but I have recorded at least four letters sent during the short British occupation in 1781, two letters sent during the French period 1781 – 1784 and one letter sent in 1795 during the last occupation period by France (1795 – 1801). Thus, knowing the various periods of occupation of St Eustatius opens up for further ‘discoveries’ of interesting and rare letters.

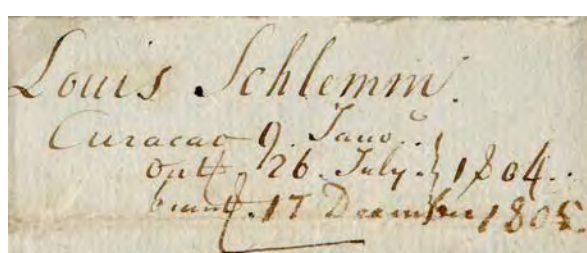
As discussed in the book (p. 45 and listed in Table 4.4), the Louvrex correspondence is one of few that have been saved to our days from the West-Indischen Handel (WH) period, 1792 - 1795. This correspondence continued through the interim period 1796 – 1807 and I have recorded two more letters sent 1804 and 1805, respectively. I recently acquired one of these letters, dated January 9, 1804. Another letter from the Louvrex correspondence is also dated on January 9, 1804 (shown in Fig. 4.18 and listed in Table 4.5), which suggested that these two letters are duplicates. A comparison of the two letters does suggest that they form a duplicate pair (Sander Pieters, personal communication). The newly recorded letter is shown in Fig. 3.2.



Notation inside the wrapper of a 'duplicate sent via N. America'



From the newly recorded letter



From the letter shown in the book, Figure 4.18

**Figure 3.2A.** Wrapper with enclosed entire letter from Louis Schlemm, dated 'Curaçao den 9 January 1804' and sent via Altona (9/6 1804) to Amsterdam, where it was received on June 16, 1804. The wrapper has a notation of a duplicate sent via North America (see scan above). Louis Schlemm sent a second letter dated Curaçao, January 9, 1804, to the same addressee. This letter was transported by an American schooner that was captured by the British. The letter was later released (see Fig. 4.18 legend in my book). Thus, I have recorded two letters sent from the same sender, dated on the same day and sent to the same addressee and although the two letters arrived in Amsterdam at different dates, the replies to both letters were sent the same day, i.e. on December 17, 1805. I conclude that these two letters are duplicates.

**Figure 3.2B.** The wrapper of the A panel transited Altona, Holstein, Germany, and is dated 'Altona 9 Junij 1804' and bears a postage notation '1/2 porto ... 5 Mk 8 Sk Holst Curant' (in total 88 skilling), presumably pre-payment for the postage to Amsterdam (SP collection).

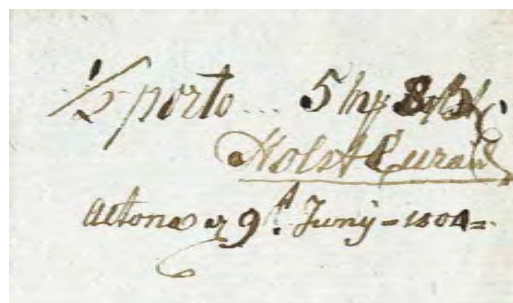


Table 4.6A. I have recorded two more letters sent from Curaçao to London during the last period of British occupation (1812 and 1814, respectively), but none of them bear a fleuron marking as they were sent as ship letters.



p. 59. Post-Napoleonic Wars letters from Dutch Windward Islands are uncommon and those recorded until 1842 were forwarded by Falmouth packets. Besides the two letters from St Eustatius that I report in the book, I have now documented two letters from St Maarten sent to London.

At p. 65, Fig. 37, I list the Dutch ship letter markings that I had recorded on letters sent from Curaçao. One interesting conclusion was that principally all ship letters from Curaçao were landed at Den Helder, while for a short period, these letters were also landed at Hellevoetsluis. Now I have recorded a ship letter from Curaçao, dated August 25, 1846, that is arrival-marked 'Zeebrief 'sGravenhage ? Oct' (Z143, Fig. 3.3).

**Figure 3.3.** Letter dated Curaçao 25 August 1846, endorsed 'Per het Barkschip Jacob Jesurun' and sent via 'sGravenhage to Amsterdam. Transit marked 'Zeebrief 'sGravenhage ? Oct' (Z143) (Corinphila NL, 250).

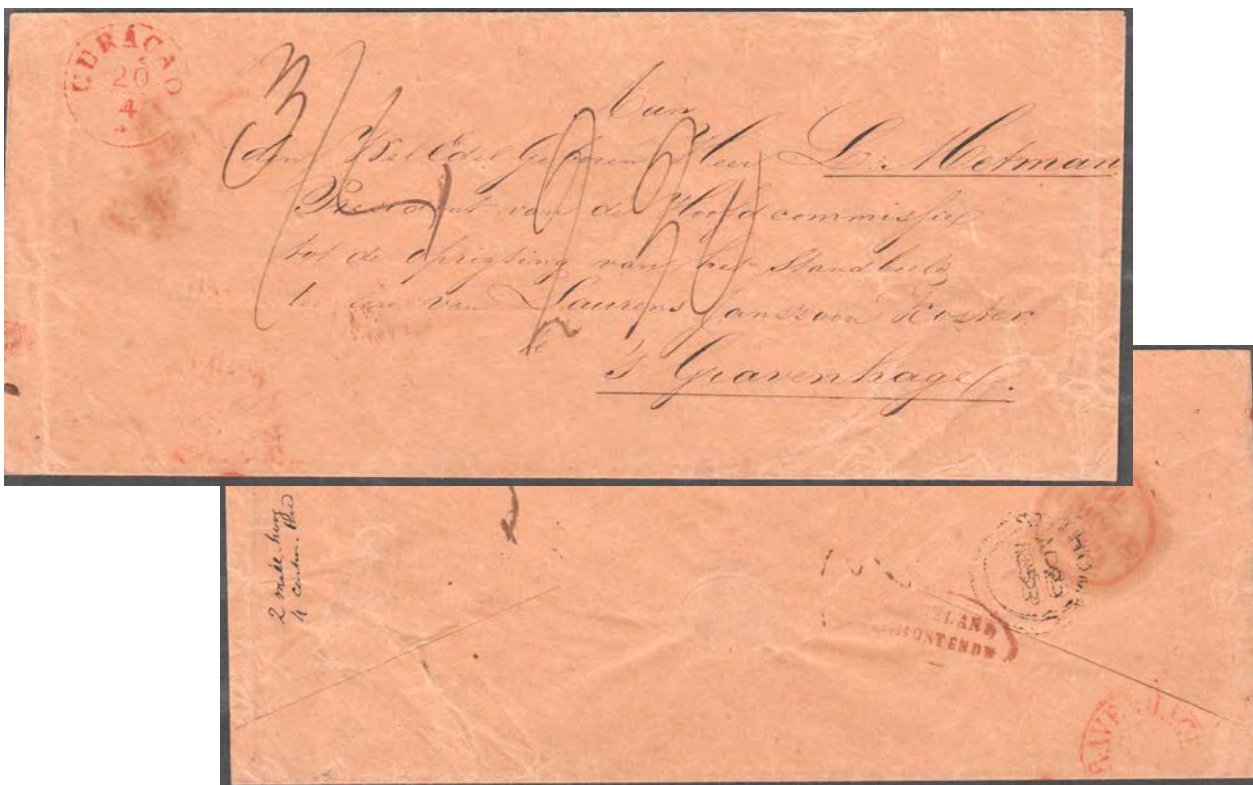


p. 88, Table 4.14. I did record without any details, three letters from St Eustatius sent to London by RMSPCo ships between 1844 and 1856 (see footnote Table 4.14). Two of these letters, sent in 1846 (see Fig. 3.4) and in 1856, respectively, were sold at the Graham Booth sale in 2022. Both letters are very rare examples of early Dutch West Indian packet mail, in general, and Dutch Windward mail in particular, forwarded by RMSPCo to Europe. Thus, with these two letters I have recorded six pre-GPU Dutch Windward Island letters sent via St Kitts and by RMSPCo ships, i.e. by the regular mail route for Dutch Windward mail to Europe; two from St Maarten, three from St Eustatius and one letter from Saba (Table 4.14).



**Figure 3.4.** Letter dated St Eustatius 22 April 1846 and sent by Dutch Windward Island feeder mail-boat to St Kitts (5 May) by RMSPCo steamer *Clyde* to St Thomas, by *Trent* to Bermuda and by *Tweed* to Southampton and by train to London (8 June). The letter was charged 2 sh postage due for a 2nd class packet rate (Ex. Brookes and Booth, SP collection).

I have also recorded a letter sent from Curaçao in April, 1853, via St Thomas and by RMSPCo ship to England. The letter was then forwarded to the Netherlands via Ostende and Breda and marked in red ink with the oval G511 (type II) 'Engeland over Ostende' handstamp (Fig. 3.5), the first record of this type of handstamp marking on a letter from Curaçao. Interestingly and as discussed in the Surinamese chapter of my book (p. 186), the Ostende route with Breda as exchange office for mail from England was opened in January, 1854 and the letter shown here and the Surinamese letter(s) with this marking discussed in the book were sent as open mail via this route before it was the regular route for the Dutch West Indian mail to the Netherlands. In the book, I comment on the scarcity of early letters sent as open mail (before May 1854) from the Dutch West Indies islands to Europe by the RMSPCo route. For example, the letter presented here is the fourth record of a letter sent from the island Curaçao as open mail by RMSPCo to the Netherlands.



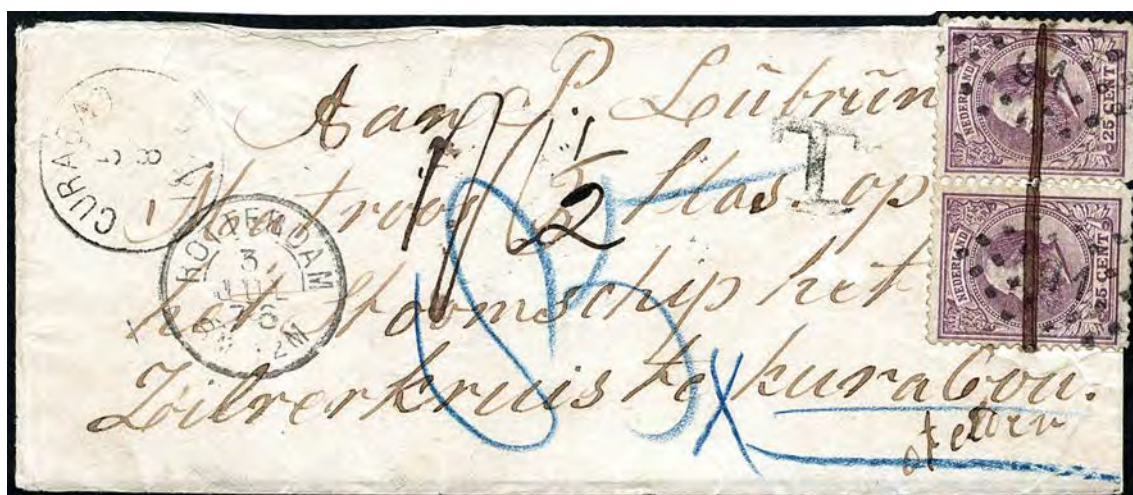
**Figure 3.5.** Envelope (content not saved) postmarked at Curaçao on April 20, 1853, and sent by *Transit* to St Thomas on the last sailing that brought mail under the contract of the Curaçaosche Pakketvaart Maatschappij (which lasted between April 26, 1850 and April 30, 1853) between Curaçao and St Thomas. The letter arrived at St Thomas on April 29 and caught the RMSPCo steamer *Orinoco*, which arrived in Southampton on May 18. The letter was then forwarded to the Netherlands via Ostende and Breda and marked in red ink with the oval G511 (type II) 'Engeland over Ostende' handstamp. The letter was charged 230 cents Dutch postage due and the British share was 3 sh 4 d ('230' and '3/4' notations), presumably charging a double rate postage. However, the postage at that time was 135 cents single rate, the 115 cents single rate postage was changed first in December 1853, so principally, I cannot explain the charged postage due. This item is further an early example of the upcoming frequent use of envelopes (SP collection).

### 3.3.2. Philatelic period

p. 84, Table 4.12. Pre-GPU letters to Curaçao pre-paid with Dutch adhesives are not common and in Table 4.12 I only recorded one letter sent during the short 50 cents period prior to the introduction of the 25 cents GPU/UPU. I did overlook, however, that this letter (dated 13/7 1876), franked for being sent as closed mail, has the 50 cents adhesive crossed-out, bears a British accountancy ('1/1½') notation and was charged '85' (cents) upon arrival. Thus, the letter was sent as open mail and the pre-payment of 50 cents was not accepted by the British or the Curaçao post-offices. At upcoming van Dieten auctions (vD 650 and later, Peter Storm van Leeuwen, personal



communication), two more letters from the same correspondence to 'ZM stoomschip *Zilverkruis* te Curaçao of elders' are planned to be offered. Interestingly, these two letters were also pre-paid as being sent by closed mail, but were sent as open mail and the pre-payments were not accepted (see example in Fig. 3.6). The adhesives are crossed-out, the letter shown here is marked with a British 'T' (i.e. the British did not accept the pre-payment), they have a British accountancy notation and were charged the 85 cents Curaçao due. The Dutch expression 'of elders' (meaning 'or elsewhere') might explain why these letters were sent as open mail. If sent as closed mail, the letters would have ended up in Curaçao, but by sending them as open mail, the letters could have been transferred at St Thomas to addressees on board the *Zilverkruis* in the case that the ship had left Curaçao for another West Indian destination. However, I have no information of the postage of a letter sent unpaid as open mail from Holland to Curaçao, but it appears to be 85 cents in August 1876.



**Figure 3.6.** Letter from Rotterdam 13/7 1876, pre-paid with two 25 cents stamps (crossed-out), sent as open mail via London (British accountancy note '1 1/2' and 'T' mark), by RMSPCo ship *Moselle* to St Thomas and by Jesurun ship *Sarah* to Curaçao and 'het stoomschip het *Zilverkruis*'. The letter was obviously not recognized as paid by the British post-office and was charged '85' (cents) upon arrival 5/8 (vD 650, Peter Storm van Leeuwen, personal communication).

**Figure 3.7.** Pre-paid 'Circular' envelope, franked with a 1 d GB stamp tied with a Reading (15/5 1873) duplex (643) and sent 'via Southampton' to Curaçao, taxed on arrival with '3' (cents). The circular was sent by the RMSPCo ship *Tasmanian*, that left Southampton on 17 May, 1873, and arrived at St Thomas on June 1. The Jesurun ship *Carmelita* brought the letter to Curaçao on June 3 (SP collection).



p. 86, Table 4.13. A 1 d pre-paid 'Circular' sent from Reading (15/5 1873), Great Britain, 'via Southampton' to Curaçao, where it was taxed with '3' cents (Fig. 3.7), should be added to the Table. This is the second pre-GPU, pre-paid, printed matter that I have recorded with a 3 cents postage due. The other example is also listed in Table 4.13 and is a printed matter dated October 30, 1869, and was sent pre-paid from the North German Federation with a 3 cents postage due notation, a fact that should be added to the Table information.

Table 4.15. One more recorded letter with the red Dos Reales Jesurun private adhesive. The letter was carried by the Jesurun ship *Galgo* to Curaçao on May 5, 1872 and has the '15' (cents) due notation in blue crayon. It is the latest recorded use of these stamps (there are several examples of later use but I think they all are fakes) and the letter belongs to the Samuel Curiel correspondence. Of the nine recorded incoming letters to Curacao bearing a Jesurun adhesive, seven are addressed to Samuel Curiel.

Table 4.16. I have recorded one more letter transported by a WI&PSC steamer. The letter was sent from Manchester, is dated May 22, 1885, and arrived at Curaçao on June 16 (Colin Tabcart collection). The letter is endorsed '*Californian from Liverpool*'.

Table 4.17. I have documented two more outgoing pre-GPU letters sent by French CGT steamers. The first letter is sent privately in 1868 to St Thomas and then per French mail to Cuba (Fig. 3.8). The letter bears the St Thomas Ligne B provenance marking, which so far is the only recorded use of that handstamp on mail sent from Curaçao. This marking should be added to Fig. 4.80 and the Postmark Catalogue. The second letter is more or less a replica of the letter shown in Figure 4.77 in the book. The letter is sent one day earlier but was carried by the same CGT ships and bears the same transfer dates as the letter described in my book. I have not had the possibility to check if the contents are the same (Ex. van Wijk collection).



**Figure 3.8.** Letter from Curaçao dated 22/6 1868 and sent per private ship *Amalia* to St Thomas (28/6) and via French mail (octagonal 'St Thomas Paq Fr B No 3, 30 Juin 68' marking; Salles 1444/3) to Havanna. Pre-paid (boxed 'P.P.') at St Thomas with 3x20 cts French adhesives, marked with an anchor handstamp. Cuban entry due marking 'N.E.2' (North Europe 2 reales). (Ex. van Wijk collection).

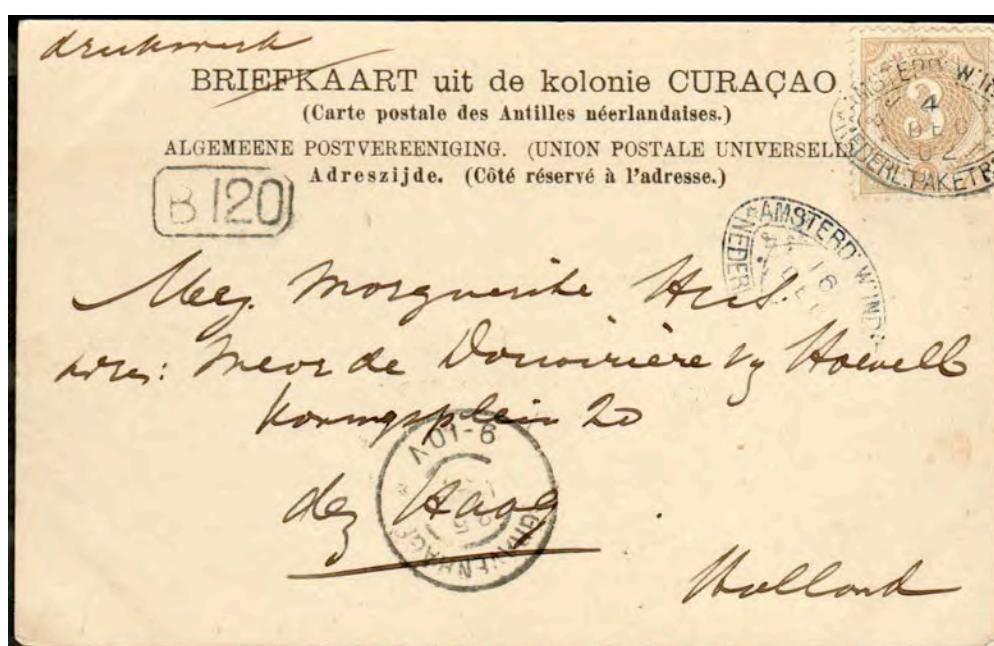
Table 4.19. A 5 c postcard from Curaçao (19/7 1907), via St Thomas (27/7) to Canada (arrival mark Montreal Can. Recd Aug 10 1907) should be added. This card bears a 'Patagonia' HAPAG purser mark (Postiljonen 234).

pp. 120-121. I have now recorded 11 letters marked with the double ring, oval, 'Red D Line of S.S. Rec'd (date) New York' handstamp (RDL 1).



pp. 124 – 128 and Table 4.20. As expected, and as I wrote in the book, I have now recorded several letters and postcards sent during late 19th and early 20th centuries that have been transported by a KWIM steamer to/from Curaçao, but early (1884 – ca. 1895) postal items sent by KWIM are hard to find and I have only recorded one additional item sent during this period. It is Dutch reply-postcard sent from Curaçao in 1890 to Rotterdam and it is marked with Cu 6 handstamp, ‘Ned:W. Indie Stoomschepen Rechtstreeks’ in dark-violet ink. This is the second record of this marking in dark-violet ink.

I have further recorded one interesting postcard (Fig 3.9) sent as a printed matter from Curaçao in 1902 via New York to Holland. This card was apparently posted on board the KWIM steamer and was marked with the oval ‘Amsterd-W:Indie Nederl:Paketboot’ (KWIM 1) date stamp upon departure for and arrival at New York. The instructions were that letters mailed on board a KWIM ship should be marked upon arrival, not when posted, which makes this postcard remarkable.



**Figure 3.9.** Postcard paid as a printed matter (3 cents) mailed on board the KWIM steamer *Prins Frederick Hendrik* on December 4, 1902 and the stamp was marked with the oval ‘Amsterd-W:Indie Nederl:Paketboot’ (KWIM 1) date stamp. The same handstamp was used again to mark the card upon arrival at New York on December 16. The instructions were that letters mailed on board a KWIM ship should be marked upon arrival, not when posted, which makes this postcard remarkable (SP collection).

In Fig. 4.104, I show a postcard from Haiti with a blue, straight line ‘Prins Frederik Hendrik.’ ship name mark. I have now recorded one more straight line KWIM ship mark, ‘Prins Willem V’, found on a letter from Haiti (Fig. 3.10). This marking should be added to Fig. 5.83 and the Postmark Catalogue. Whether all KWIM steamers had such ship name handstamps at the turn of the century is unknown to me.

Table 4.23, p. 140. I have recorded one more letter with a Porte Libre stamp as listed in the updated Table 4.23B. This letter transited Curaçao on February 8, 1891, and was sent to Manchester via New York by the Red D Line steamer *Venezuela*.



**Figure 3.10.** Letter posted on board the KWIM steamer *Prins Willem V* (violet marking) and sent from Haiti 'via New York' by Dutch mail to Amsterdam. According to the rules, the letter and adhesive were marked with the oval 'Amsterd-W:Indie Nederl: Paketboot' (KWIM 1) date stamp at the arrival in New York, '30 Mei 02'. The letter is back-stamped 'New York. N.Y.-For.Brch May 30 1902' and arrived in Amsterdam on June 9 (SP collection).

### 3.4. New Records – Suriname and the Dutch Guiana River Valleys of the 'Wild Coast'

#### 3.4.1. Pre-philatelic period

During the 17th and most part of the 18th centuries, the Pomeroon, Essequibo, Demerara and Berbice river valleys in Guiana were under Dutch control. However, by the end of the 18th century they were occupied by French and soon after by British troops and at the beginning of the 19th century they again became occupied by British troops. These valleys were finally ceded to Britain in the Anglo-Dutch Treaty of 1814 and approved at the congress of Vienna in 1815 (for a short historical background to the Guiana river valleys, see Pählman, 2021). From a philatelic perspective, the British occupation periods are very interesting as the British occupants introduced the first handstamps used in the Guianas and as Britain organized the first scheduled mail service to the Guiana valleys when introducing the Suriname Falmouth packet line. A number of interesting letters sent to/from the Guiana valleys before and during the British occupation periods were exposed at the sale of Graham Booth's large West Indian postal history collection (Spink 22022). Furthermore, at the three last Feldman auctions (2021 – 2022) four 'new' Suriname fleuron letters were sold, of which at least three are marked with a previously unrecorded handstamp sub-type (see below).

Incoming letters to the Dutch Guiana valleys before the British occupation periods during late 18th and early 19th centuries are very rare, I did report three such letters in my book (Table 5.2). I now record four more incoming 18th century letters to Demerary/Demerara (note the Dutch/British spelling) when the Dutch still had control over this Guiana valley. The letters are written at Grenada in 1792 and 1793 and at Barbados in 1795 and in 1796, respectively. All four letters were privately

forwarded to Mr Hugh McCalmont at Demerary (see updated part of Table 5.2, Incoming letters). As evident from Tables 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4B, the McCalmont and Sandbach correspondences contribute to the majority of documented letters and I assume that there are more letters sent to/from Berbice and Demerara to be recorded from these two correspondences.

(Part of) Table 5.2. Eighteenth century letters sent from/to the Berbice and Demerara river valleys

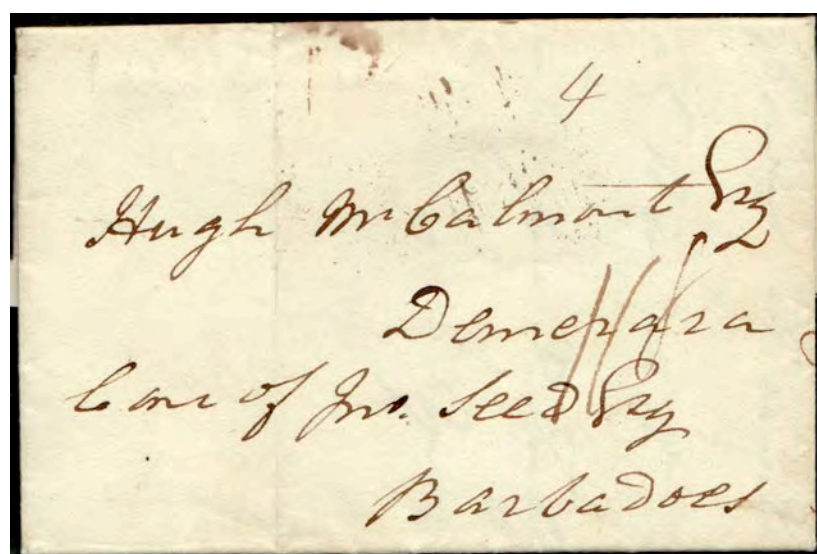
| From Berbice and Demerara River valleys |   |         |                       |  |
|---|---|---------|-----------------------|--|
| 1778-02-22                              | Letter from <b>'Rio Berbice'</b> to <b>Amsterdam</b> ' <i>per Capit. J.G. Knol D.G.G.</i> ' 'Amsterdam Texel Post' mark. Fig. 5.7.  | 6020-31 | SP                    |  |
| 1779-08-05                              | Letter from <b>Demerara</b> to <b>Haarlem</b> ' <i>per Schip de Jonge Willem per C Saeg</i> ' Postage due notes '6' and '8'. GWC mark type 3. Fig. 5.8  | H112    | vD 603                |  |
| 1779-09-17                              | Letter from <b>Demerara</b> ' <i>per Vrind Captijn Wiberg D.G.G.</i> ' to <b>Middelburg</b> and endorsed ' <i>post van Texel</i> ' 'Amsterdam Texel Post' mark. Postage due notations '6' and '13'. Fig. 5.9. | 6020-31 | NPV 2017              |  |
| Incoming letters                        |   |         |                       |  |
| 1790-05-15                              | Letter from <b>Barbados</b> to <b>Demerara</b> (25/5) ' <i>p favor of Mr Austin</i> ' Fig. 5.14**   | -       | Ex. 'Foxley' coll. SP |  |
| +1792-10-31                             | Incoming letter from <b>Grenada</b> to <b>Demerara</b> (20/11) per ' <i>Sloop Williams, Capt. Leath</i> '**   |         | SP                    |  |
| +1793-08-30                             | Letter sent from <b>Grenada</b> to <b>Demerara</b> **   |         | Feldman 2022          |  |
| +1795-07-14                             | Letter sent from <b>Barbados</b> to <b>Demerary</b> . Arrival notation July 23. No postage notations, so probably forwarded privately**   | -       | Ex. Booth, SP         |  |
| 1795-12-?                               | <b>Bill of Lading</b> letter from <b>Amsterdam</b> to <b>Demerary</b> ' <i>afgezonden per t Schip van Capt. H Stockett</i> '  | -       | vD 639                |  |
| +1796-01-19                             | Letter sent from <b>Barbados</b> to <b>Demerary</b> , endorsed ' <i>p Greenidge</i> ', but no 4 d postage notation, so probably forwarded privately**   | -       | Ex. Booth, SP         |  |
| 1796-?-?                                | <b>Bill of Lading</b> letter from <b>Amsterdam</b> to <b>Demerara</b> ' <i>per Capt. P Rademaker</i> '  | -       | vD 639                |  |

\*\*The 'Hugh McCalmont' correspondence. #PEP1/2 catalogue numbers, for illustrations, see Fig. 5.10). +New record

**3.4.1.1. British occupation periods.** I have for more than 30 years been recording philatelic items sent to/from Dutch Guiana in general, and to/from Suriname in particular. However, as I wrote in my book, I have not recorded letters sent to/from the occupied Dutch Guiana valleys for that many years. With the exposure of all letters to/from Berbice and Demerara at the Graham Booth sale and that I have included Guiana letters illustrated in Townsend and Howe (1970), means that I here can record a number of 'newly recorded' letters sent to/from Demerara and Berbice.

**Figure 3.11.** Entire letter written in London on May 6, 1801, (reverse 'MR 6 1801' London date stamp marking) and sent via forwarding agent at Barbados. 'Care of Mr Seed Esq Barbadoes' to Demerara, i.e. during British occupation. The letter was charged the Falmouth packet rate 1 sh 8 d and the inter-Caribbean rate 4 d according to notations (Ex. Booth, SP collection).

London 6th March 1801





As documented in the updated Table 5.3, I have recorded two more incoming letters to Demerara during the first British occupation period (April 1796 to March 1802). Both letters are sent from England, hence addressed to ‘Demerara’ and one of them, sent via a forwarding agent at Barbados, is shown in Fig. 3.11. I have further recorded four outgoing letters during the first British occupation period, two from Demerary (note Dutch spelling), one from Suriname and one from ‘Rio Berbice’ (updated Table 5.3).

**Updated Table 5.3. Letters to/from the Dutch Guiana river valleys during the first British occupation period April 1796 (1799 for Suriname) to March 1802 and the interim between the 1st and 2nd occupation**

| Date  | Description  | Provenance                       |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
| <b>Incoming</b>   |  |                                  |
| +1798-??-??   | Letter from <b>Buxton</b> , England to <b>Demerara</b> . Endorsed ‘ <i>packet</i> ’*   | Townsend & Howe (1970)           |
| +1801-03-06   | Letter from <b>London</b> to <b>Demerara</b> sent via Barbados, endorsed ‘ <i>Care of Mr Seed Esq Barbados</i> ’ - Falmouth packet rate ‘1/8’ and ‘4’ (d) rate to Demerara*  | Ex. Booth, SP                    |
| 1801-07-31  | Letter from <b>St Thomas</b> , Danish West Indies, to <b>Demerara</b> . Fig. 5.15 *  | Ex. Høgensborg, SP               |
| <b>Outgoing</b>   |  |                                  |
| +1796-05-23   | Letter from <b>Demerary</b> to <b>Scotland</b> rated ‘8’ and ‘1/1’ with unframed Liverpool Ship marking  | Ex. Booth, Spink 22022           |
| +1799-07-01   | Letter from <b>Demarary</b> to <b>London</b> ? Straight line Demerary mark BO-Su 7   | Townsend & Howe (1970)           |
| 1799-12-01  | Entire letter from <b>Demerara</b> to <b>London</b> , rate ‘7’ with Horseshoe ‘Hithe Ship LRE’ marking   | Ex. Stone, Spink 1020            |
| +1800-02-03   | Entire letter dated at ‘ <b>Rio Berbice</b> ’ and sent via the Netherlands (straight line D’Holland marking) to <b>Montbelliard</b> . ‘39’ (Decimes) due notation  | Coll. A Zonjee                   |
| 1800-07-06  | Letter from ‘ <b>Rio Essequibo</b> ’ via ‘ <b>Demerary Jul 14</b> ’ sent ‘ <i>per favour Capt Savilless, Boston</i> ’ to <b>Sharon, Connecticut</b> . ‘Boston’ and ‘Ship’ straight line and Bishop (‘27 AU’) post marks and 19 cents due. Fig. 5.16  | Ex. Nathan and ‘Foxley’ coll. SP |
| 1800-12-27  | Letter from <b>Paramaribo</b> to <b>London</b> (1/5 1801) oval Deal ship letter mark   | SP                               |
| 1801-10-20  | Letter marked with ‘ <b>Suriname</b> Oct 20 1801’ two-line handstamp (BO-Su 11) and sent ‘ <i>pr Triton Capt G. Witty</i> ’ to <b>London</b> . Two-line ‘Ramsgate Ship LRE’ transit mark. Shown in Erfmann & Stuut p 19.   | JWJ                              |
| 1801-10-20  | Letter from <b>Paramaribo</b> to <b>London</b> written in Dutch by Governor Fredericks during the first year of British Occupation, struck on reverse ‘ <b>Suriname</b> Oct 20 1801’ (BO-Su 11). Oval ‘Ship Letter Deal’ and ‘6/-’ to pay in manuscript. London arrival c.d.s. in red on reverse (Jan 21, 1802). Fig. 5.18 | Ex. Glassco and Dubois, DvW      |
| <b>Non-occupation interim period April 1802 – Aug 1803 (May 1804, Suriname)</b> |  |                                  |
| 1804-02-23  | Letter from <b>Suriname</b> to <b>London</b> . Liverpool Ship Letter transit mark  | Torres                           |
| 1804-02-24  | Letter from <b>Suriname</b> to <b>Connecticut</b> ‘ <i>Forwarded by Capt Burna</i> ’ postage due note ‘ <i>Sh18</i> ’  | eBay                             |
| +1804-03-07   | Letter from <b>Suriname</b> to <b>Philadelphia</b> . Endorsed ‘ <i>Forwarded per Captain Hunt</i> ’. 6 cents ship letter rate marking  | Delcampe                         |

\*The ‘Hugh McCalmont’ correspondence. +New record

As mentioned above and shown in the updated Table 5.4A, I have recorded four additional letters bearing a Suriname fleuron marking (see example in Fig. 3.12). All four letters are sent to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and to my knowledge these letters have never been recognized in the Dutch or British philatelic literature. The fact that these four letters were sent to Halifax make them special, as these are the first examples of a Suriname fleuron handstamp-marked letter addressed to another country than England. Furthermore, the Suriname fleuron mark on three of them, possibly on all four, is a previously not described sub-type and I have added this marking (BO-Su-15) to the Postmark Catalogue. At least three of the four new Suriname fleuron letters appear to belong to the same correspondence as they are addressed to an officer of the 64th Regiment in Halifax. The Canadian Regiment fought in the West Indies on the British side during the Napoleonic Wars and took part in the occupation of Suriname in 1804. The regiment left Suriname in 1813.

**Updated Table 5.4A. Letters from Suriname during the second British occupation period May 1804 to November 1815**

| Date                            | Description  | Provenance                        |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1804-06-12                      | Letter sent to <b>St. Vincents</b> , rated "4" and reverse, 'Tobago 3 Jul 1804' two-line date stamp  | Ex. Brookes. Spink 18037          |
| 1805-02-22                      | Letter probably sent to <b>London</b> with reverse two-line handstamp impression 'Surinam Feb 22 1805' (BO-Su 11). Shown in Ridell, p. 28                                      | Ex. Benders                       |
| 1805-11-12                      | Letter from Paramaribo to <b>Amsterdam</b> (14/6 1806) endorsed 'Pr:L:P. 10 Feb 1806' Forwarded on '3 Juny 1806 Van Uw Ed zeer DWDS' and sent 'pr Edw van Harthals. Fig. 5.25. | SP                                |
| 1809-02-01                      | Letter sent to <b>London</b> as ship letter, 'Ship Letter Falmouth', '1/3' due. Two-line 'Surinam Feb 1 1809' marking (BO-Su 11).  | JWJ                               |
| 1815-04-07                      | Letter to <b>Middelburg</b> (18/6) via London (13/5) and Den Briel, 'Brielle: Eng Corresp:' route mark.  | E&S                               |
| <b>Suriname fleuron letters</b> |  |                                   |
| +1813-06-16                     | Letter sent to <b>Halifax, Nova Scotia</b> . Type 2d, new type BO-15   | Feldman 2022                      |
| +1813-07-01                     | Letter sent to <b>Halifax, Nova Scotia</b> . Type 2d, new type BO-15   | Feldman 2022                      |
| +1813-07-09                     | Letter sent to <b>Halifax, Nova Scotia</b> . Type 2d, new type BO-15   | Feldman 2022                      |
| 1813-07-28                      | Letter to <b>London</b> (10/10) 'pr the Fox packet'. Listed by E&S#, Type 2a*  | Ex. Heathcote. DvW                |
| 1813-09?-28                     | Letter sent to <b>London</b> , 'p Chicester Packet'. Listed by E&S. Type 2a  | Ex. Poulie, vD 540                |
| 1813-11-09                      | Letter sent to <b>London</b> (1/2 1814) 'pr Queen Charlotte Packet'. '2/2' due note. Listed and shown (p 20) in E&S. Type 2b* Ill. in Ridell p. 29                             | Ex. Bunge                         |
| +1813-??-2-?                    | Letter sent to <b>Halifax, Nova Scotia</b> . Type 2a?  | Feldman 2021                      |
| 1814-01-19                      | Letter to <b>London</b> (26/5) 'p Elisabeth Packet'. Listed by E&S. Type 2c  | Taken from E&S                    |
| 1814-02-11                      | Letter sent to <b>London</b> . Type 2c*  | Ex. Heathcote, Robson Lowe 1968   |
| 1814-04-22                      | Letter sent to <b>London</b> 'p April Packet'. Probably listed by E&S. Type 2c   | G van Welie                       |
| 1814-04-22                      | Letter to <b>London</b> (24/7) 'Walshingham packet' Listed by E&S. Type 2c*  | Lugdunum 52                       |
| 1814-05-16                      | Letter sent to <b>London</b> 'Snake packet'. Listed by E&S. Type 2c*   | Argyll Etkin 2014                 |
| 1814-08-31                      | Letter sent to <b>London</b> 'pr Express packet'. Listed by E&S. Type 2c*  | vD 640                            |
| 1815-06-28                      | Letter sent to <b>London</b> (1/10) 'p Express packet'. Listed by E&S. Type 2c   | Ex. Ridell, Poulie, Stuut. SP     |
| 1815-11-29                      | Letter sent to <b>London</b> (4/2) 'per Grace Packet' and '2/2' due. Listed by E&S. Type 2c*. Fig. 5.24  | JWJ                               |
| 1816-01-01                      | Letter sent to <b>London</b> (5/3) 'p Queen Charlotte Packet'. Listed by E&S. Type 2c*   | Ex. WdB, Glassco, and Dubois. DvW |

\*Rothschild correspondence. #E&S (Erfmann & Stuut, 2011). +New record



**Figure 3.12.** Entire letter from Paramaribo, dated July 9, 1813, and sent to a Captain in the 64th Regiment in Halifax, Nova Scotia, with a strike of a previously not recorded Suriname fleuron handstamp (BO-Su 15) on reverse (Feldman 2022).

Regarding letters sent to the other Guiana valleys during the second British occupation period, I have recorded three more from Berbice and thirteen additional letters from Demerara (see updated Tables 5.4B, divided into letters from Berbice and from Demerara, respectively). Out of this set of letters, I chose to show a letter that was sent in 1807 from Demerara to St Vincent via Barbados (Fig. 3.13).

**Updated Table 5.4B. Letters from the Berbice river valley during the second British occupation period Sep. 1803 to Nov. 1815**

| Date           | Description   | Provenance   |
|----------------|---|--|
| <b>Berbice</b> |   |  |
| 1805-02-15     | Letter sent to <b>London</b> (16/4) via Liverpool. Postage due '1/8'*   | Ex. Nathan and 'Foxley' coll. Spink 14019                  |
| +1808-05-12    | Letter to <b>London</b> marked '1 oz', rated '4/8' marked Liverpool Ship Letter*  | Ex. Booth, Spink 22022                                     |
| 1808-11-01     | Letter sent 'per the Anna' to <b>Belfast</b> 15/1 1809 via Liverpool (Liverpool Ship Letter) and Dublin (13/1). Due '1/9'*  | SP   |
| 1810-08-28     | Letter to <b>Inverness</b> (5/11). 'Berbice' straight line mark (BO-Su 1). '2/6' due. Fig. 5.21   | Ex. du Pont, Feldman 2014                                  |
| +1811-01-06    | Letter sent to <b>Clifton</b> via Bristol, re-addressed to Bath. Reverse two-line Berbice 6th Jan. 1811 (BO-Su-2) mark  | SP   |
| 1811-??-??     | Letter to <b>London</b> with 'Falmouth Ship Letter' mark  | Ex. Gunn, Cavendish 628                                    |
| 1813-08-06     | Letter to <b>Inverness</b> (13/10) 'p Packet'. 'Berbice 6th Aug 1813' two-line mark (BO-Su 3). '2/8' and '2/9' due. Framed 'Add 1/2' stamp  | Ex. du Pont, Feldman 2014                                  |
| 1813-10-04     | Letter sent to <b>Belfast</b> 'pr Packet' rated 2/6, 3/9 and 3/3 and two-line 'Berbice 5th Oct 1813' mark (BO-Su 3)*  | Ex. Ray, Jackson and 'Foxley' coll. Spink 14019            |
| 1813-12-04     | Letter to <b>London</b> privately 'forwarded by the Rev. John Weag'   | Imperium coll. Feldman                                     |
| 1814-06-20     | Letter sent to <b>Amsterdam</b> via London (8/8) marked 'Paid 3/8' and one-line 'Berbice 22 June 1814' (BO-Su 4). 'Foreign 1814' arrival marking  | Ex. 'Foxley' coll. Ex. Booth, Spink 22022                  |
| 1815-02-10     | Letter sent to <b>Belfast</b> marked 'p Packet' rated '2/6' and '3/3' and '6/6'. Reverse 'Demerara Feb 14 1815' fleuron marking (BO-Su 9 type 1)*   | Ex. Shields-Forshaw, 'Foxley' coll. and Booth. Spink 22022 |
| 1815-04-26     | Letter sent to <b>Belfast</b> 'pr Packet' with one-line 'Berbice 13th May 1815' postal marking (BO-Su 4). Marked '5/2' and '6/6' dues*  | Ex. Ray and 'Foxley' coll. Spink 14019                     |
| 1815-12-05     | Letter written on Dec. 5 and sent to <b>Belfast</b> rated 2/4, 2/7 and 2/11 with two-line 'Berbice 7 Dec. 1815' mark (BO-Su 5), unrecorded by Proud. Arrival mark, '4 Fe 1816'* Fig. 5.22 | Ex. Ray and 'Foxley' coll. SP                              |
| +1815-12-06    | Ship letter with oval Berbice Ship Letter mark (BO-Su 6) to <b>Inverness</b> , Scotland, via Greenock.  | Townsend & Howe (1970)                                     |

\*The 'Hugh McCalmont' correspondence. +New record

**Figure 3.13.** Entire letter written at Demerary on October 25, 1807 and sent to St Vincent, where it arrived on November 20 according to a notation. The letter was sent via Barbados (documented by a straight line 'Barbadoes' mark). The letter was charged 4 d (inter-Caribbean rate to Barbados and St Vincent (Ex. Booth, SP collection)).



**Updated Table 5.4B (continued). Letters sent from the Demerara river valley during the second British occupation period Sep. 1803 to Nov. 1815**

| <b>Demerara</b> |   |   |
|-----------------|---|---|
| +1803-10-01     | Letter sent to <b>London</b> via Portsmouth (oval Ship Letter mark) rated '10'*   | Ex. Booth, Spink 22022  |
| +1805-03-01     | Letter sent to <b>London</b> via Liverpool (Ship Letter mark), endorsed ' <i>p Ship Demerara Capt Inglis</i> ' rated '1/2'.   | Ex. Booth, Spink 22022  |
| +1805-03-06     | Letter sent to <b>Halifax, Nova Scotia</b> , vi Barbados (' <i>Care of Messrs. Smith &amp; Co</i> ') weight notation ' <i>1 3/4 oz</i> ' and postage due ' <i>2/4</i> '. Probably wrong date of the date stamp. Demerara horseshoe (BO-Su 8) date stamp | Feldman 2021  |
| 1805-07-02      | Letter sent to <b>London</b> (17/9), ' <i>p. Pacquet</i> '. Marked with 'Demerara Jul 2 1805' horseshoe handstamp (BO-Su 8) and ' <i>4/</i> ' due notation  | Ex. 'Foxley' coll. Spink 14019                                      |
| +1805-07-28     | Letter sent to <b>London</b> (27/9), endorsed ' <i>p. Ariadne via Liverpool</i> ' (oval Liverpool Ship Letter mark) and rated ' <i>3/6</i> '*   | SP  |
| +1805-09-20     | Letter sent to <b>London</b> (5/12), marked ' <i>Via Barbados</i> ', rated ' <i>2/</i> ' on reverse straight-line 'Barbadoes' mark*   | Ex. Booth, Spink 22022  |
| 1807-02-23      | Letter sent to <b>London</b> (16/8), marked ' <i>p. Packet</i> ', ' <i>1 oz</i> ' and ' <i>8/</i> '. 'Demerara May 23 1807' horseshoe cancellation (BO-Su 8)  | Ex. 'Foxley' coll. Spink 14019                                      |
| +1807-04-09     | Letter sent to <b>Belfast</b> endorsed ' <i>p Ship Demerary, Ingles, via Liverpool</i> ' (Liverpool Ship Letter mark) sent via London*  | Ex. Booth, Spink 22022  |
| +1807-10-25     | Letter to <b>St Vincent</b> via Barbados rated ' <i>d4</i> '. Straight-line Barbadoes mark  | Ex. Booth, SP   |
| +1807-12-02     | From Demarara, sent ' <i>p Brig Betsy with Care</i> ' o Belfast 10/2 1808*  | Harlos 45   |
| 1808-08-21      | Letter sent to <b>Liverpool</b> ' <i>p Mail Boat via Barbados</i> ' and 'Barbados' straight line cancellation. Due notation ' <i>4/2</i> '#   | Ex. Brookes and Booth. Spink 22022                                  |
| 1808-12-07      | Letter sent to <b>Belfast</b> ' <i>via Bdos</i> ' and 'Tortola 29 Oct 1808' two-line marking. Due notations ' <i>2/9</i> ' and ' <i>3/3</i> '   | Ex. Brookes. Spink 18037  |
| 1809-01-24      | Letter sent to <b>Bath</b> (17/4). Due notation ' <i>8</i> '. Fig. 5.23   | SP  |
| +1809-03-29     | Letter to <b>London</b> via Barbados rated ' <i>2/</i> ' and ' <i>4</i> '. Straight-line Barbadoes mark   | Ex. Booth, Spink 22022  |
| 1809-12-15      | Letter written from 'Demerary' to <b>Liverpool</b> sent unpaid, rated ' <i>2/1</i> ', reverse 'Demerara Dec 20 1809' <b>type 1</b> fleuron marking (BO-Su 9)#   | Ex. Townsend and Dubois coll. SP                                    |
| 1810-01-01      | Letter sent to <b>Glasgow</b> rated ' <i>2/3</i> '. 'Demerara Jan 1 1801' !! horseshoe marking (BO-Su 8)  | Imperium coll. Feldman 2021   |
| 1810-02-19      | Letter sent to <b>London</b> (17/6 1810), 'Demerara Feb 19 1801' !! horseshoe marking (BO-Su 8)   | Ex. du Pont, Feldman 2014   |
| +1810-02-20     | Letter sent to <b>London</b> via Liverpool (Liverpool Ship Letter mark). Endorsed ' <i>per the Blanchard Capt Hewison 20 feb. 1810</i> '. Rated ' <i>8</i> '#   | Ex. Booth, Spink 22022  |
| 1810-06-08      | Letter sent to <b>London</b> (19/8 1810) rated ' <i>2/</i> '. 'Demerara Jun 8 1801' !! horseshoe marking (BO-Su 8)  | Ex. Shields-Forshaw, Jackson, 'Foxley' coll. and Booth, Spink 22022 |
| +1811-04-09     | Letter sent to <b>Liverpool</b> (Ship Letter mark), endorsed ' <i>p Thomas</i> ' rated ' <i>1/</i> '#   | Ex. Booth, Spink 22022  |
| +1811-05-06     | Letter sent to London via Liverpool. Endorsed ' <i>p Antigua Packet</i> ' but transit marked with oval Liverpool Ship Letter handstamp, rated ' <i>1/</i> '#  | Ex. Booth, Spink 22022  |
| 1811-07-18      | Letter sent to <b>London</b> . 'Demerara Jul 18 0811'! horseshoe marking (BO-Su 8)  | Ex. du Pont, Feldman 2014   |
| +1811-07-18     | Letter sent to ?? with a 'Demerara Jul 18 0811'! horseshoe marking (BO-Su 8)  | Townsend & Howe (1970)  |
| 1815-04-17      | Letter sent to <b>London</b> (11/6) rated ' <i>6/6</i> '. 'Demerara 19 Apr 1815' <b>type 2</b> fleuron marking (BO-Su 10)   | Ex. Brookes. Spink 18037  |
| 1815-04-19      | Letter sent to <b>Liverpool</b> rated ' <i>6/9</i> ', ' <i>p Fox Packet</i> '. 'Demerara 19 Apr 1815' <b>type 2</b> fleuron marking (BO-Su 10)  | Imperium coll. Feldman  |
| 1815-05-13      | Letter sent to <b>Liverpool</b> rated ' <i>2/3</i> ', ' <i>per Osborne Packet</i> '. 'Demerara 13 May 1815' <b>type 2</b> fleuron marking (BO-Su 10). Fig. 5.23#  | Ex. Brookes. Spink 18037  |
| 1815-06-03      | Letter sent to <b>London</b> rated ' <i>2/3</i> '. 'Demerara Jun 3 1815' <b>type 1</b> fleuron marking (BO-Su 9)  | Ex. du Pont, Feldman 2014   |
| +1815-09-15     | Letter to <b>Liverpool</b> , week 'Demerara Oct 20 1815' <b>type 1</b> fleuron (BO-Su-9)#   | Le Timbre Classique No 5  |

\*The 'Hugh McCalmont' correspondence. #The 'Samuel Sandbach' correspondence. +New record

A couple of these newly recorded letters are marked with a Berbice or a Demerary/Demerara handstamp, markings that overall are very difficult to find. Any future updates from my side will focus on letters bearing a Berbice or a Demerara handstamp marking as they overall are rare (see updated Table 5.4C) and attract many collectors. As mentioned in chapter 3, Townsend and Howe (1970) present one Demerary handstamp type not listed by me or by Proud (2000). They just mention that this mark is found on a letter in the Townsend collection, but the letter is not illustrated

in their monograph (Townsend and Howe, 2000). The marking is added to the Postmark Catalogue and is shown in connection to Table 5.4C.

**Updated Table 5.4C. Frequency of recorded handstamp markings on letters from Berbice\*, Demerara\* and Suriname during the British occupation of the Dutch Guiana river valleys**

| Postmark number      | Description (see Postmark Catalogue for impressions)        | Letters recorded   |
|----------------------|---|--------------------|
| BO-Su 1<br>Proud -   | Berbice straight line without date                          | 2                  |
| BO-Su 2<br>Proud PS2 | Berbice two lines, narrow gap<br>Berbice in capital letters | 5                  |
| BO-Su 3<br>Proud -   | Berbice two lines, wide gap<br>Berbice in small letters     | 2                  |
| BO-Su 4<br>Proud PS3 | Berbice straight line with date                             | 5                  |
| BO-Su 5<br>Proud -   | Berbice two lines, but smaller than<br>BO-SU 2 and 3        | 2                  |
| BO-Su 6<br>Proud SL1 | Berbice Ship letter   | 2                  |
| BO-Su 7<br>Proud PS2 | Demerary straight line with date                            | 1#                 |
| +BO-Su 7A            | Demerary two lines with date                                | 1#                 |
| BO-Su 8<br>Proud PS3 | Demerara 'horseshoe'  | 12                 |
| BO-Su 9<br>Proud PS4 | Demerara fleuron type I                                     | 9 type I<br>and II |
| BO-Su 10<br>Proud -  | Demerara fleuron type II                                    | 9 type I<br>and II |
| BO-Su 11             | Suriname two lines  | 4                  |
| BO-Su 12             | Suriname Fleuron type 2a                                    | 3                  |
| BO-Su 13             | Suriname Fleuron type 2b                                    | 1                  |
| BO-Su 14             | Suriname Fleuron type 2c                                    | 9                  |
| +BO-Su 15            | Suriname Fleuron type 2d                                    | 3                  |

\*Based on Nam Chaisue's and SP's records. #Recorded by Townsend and Howe (1976). +New record

**Newly recorded handstamps**

DEMERY  
NOV 1813  
BO-Su 7A



BO-Su 15

**3.4.1.2. Post-British occupation period.** p. 177. I mention that the absolute majority of ship letters sent from Suriname to the Netherlands from 1834 to the 1850s were landed at Den Helder. I had only recorded two exceptions from this rule, letters that were landed at Hellevoetsluis, and now I have recorded one more letter, which is dated February 9, 1841, i.e. considerably later than the earlier recorded letters from Suriname and Curaçao that were landed at Hellevoetsluis (see Table 4.10).

Ship letters sent to/from foreign countries from 1834 and onwards are scarce, but could have been overlooked by me. I did not comment on this scarcity in my book and when I now review my files, I have so far only recorded one incoming ship letter from Martinique in 1838 (vD605) and three outgoing ship letters to Scotland, one of them is illustrated in the book (Fig. 5.30).

**3.4.2. Philatelic period**

p. 189, Table 5.7. I reported four letters sent 'pre-paid' from Paramaribo to London via Georgetown, where a 24 cents British Guiana adhesive was added (most likely) and marked with the Georgetown 'A03' killer handstamp and then forwarded by RMSPCo ships to London via Southampton. All four letters are addressed to Mrs Helden, London and in Townsend and Howe

(1970) a fifth letter from this correspondence is illustrated, i.e. sent 1866 from Paramaribo, endorsed ‘*stamped*’ and with a 24 cents adhesive marked ‘A03’. I also discussed the possibility that British Guiana stamps could be bought in Paramaribo, although I have no source that support that alternative. However, on one of these five letters the British Guiana adhesive partly ‘masks’ the Paramaribo marking, which would support that these adhesives were applied at the Georgetown post-office.

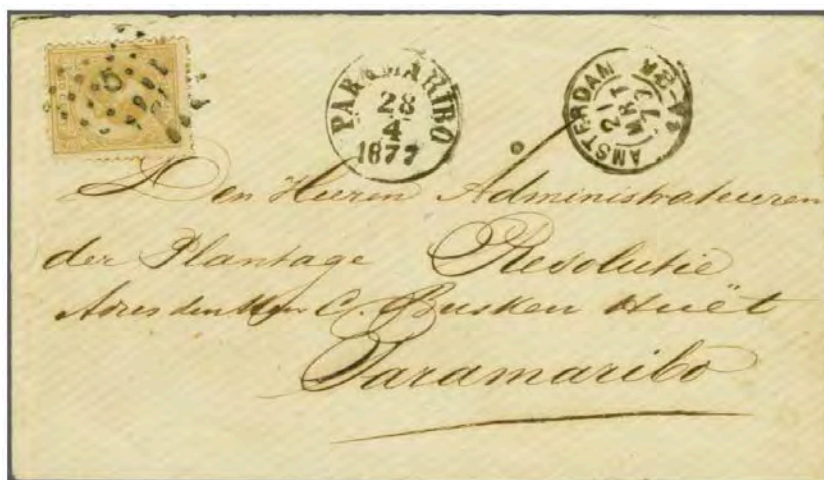
Another highly interesting letter to London that passed Georgetown was sent unpaid from Nieuw Rotterdam, where it was post marked on January 3, 1880 (Fig. 3.14). The remarkable feature of this letter is that it was sent by French mail from Georgetown, where the letter was marked with the rare French provenance handstamp ‘Démérari Paq. Fr. C No 1, 5 Janv 08’ (note inverted year and that this is the only recorded letter from Suriname with this provenance mark (Salles 1531)). This marking should be added to Fig. 5.64 and the Postmark Catalogue. The letter was marked with a Surinamese ‘T’ handstamp and a British ‘8 d’ handstamp and arrived at London on January 27. The letter obviously missed the RMSPCo ship *Tiber* that left Georgetown on January 5, i.e. the day after the regular mailbags for British mail from Paramaribo arrived (Delbeke 2002). As there are no additional French transit marks on the letter, it might have been transferred from the CGT ship *Venezuela* to a RMSPCo ship at Trinidad (see Fig. 3.14 legend).



**Figure 3.14.** Unpaid letter (Surinamese ‘T’ mark) dated January 3, 1880, and sent from Nieuw Rotterdam to London via Georgetown (January 4, 1880). For unknown reasons the letter was not transferred to the RMSPCo steamer *Tiber* that left Georgetown on the 5th of January, possibly because it was sent unpaid from Suriname. The letter was instead transferred to the CGT Ligne C steamer *Venezuela*, where the letter received the French provenance marking ‘Démérari Paq. Fr. C No 1, 5 Janv 08’ (Salles 1531, note inverted year). *Venezuela* arrived at Fort-de-France 9/1 to catch the Ligne B ship *Lafayette* which arrived at St Nazaire on January 25. The letter was then transferred to London by regular mail routes and arrived there on January 27. An alternative route, which is not supported by any transit marks, could be that the letter was transferred at Trinidad to *Tiber* (she left Trinidad on January 7 and most likely *Venezuela* would have arrived at Trinidad in time for that departure) and then to the RMSPCo main line ship *Para*, that left St Thomas on January 16 to arrive at Plymouth on January 27. The letter was charged 8 d postage due (twice the single rate of 4 d as unpaid) upon arrival (SP collection).

p. 199. Pre-GPU Letters sent to/from Suriname that are franked with Dutch or Surinamese adhesives are rare (see Table 5.6, which lists the recorded letters sent by British mail). Until now,

I have not recorded any Dutch letter sent to Suriname, by French mail, that was pre-paid with a Dutch stamp. In Fig. 3.15, the first recorded example of a Dutch pre-GPU letter sent to Suriname by French packets is shown. I cannot explain why letters franked with a pre-GPU Dutch adhesive sent by this route are so scarce.



**Figure 3.15.** Letter, pre-paid with a 50 cents Dutch stamp, sent from Amsterdam 21/3 1877 to Paramaribo (28/4-77). Based on the arrival date I conclude that the letter was sent by French mail. Thus, the CGT Ligne A ship *Washington* brought the letter from St Nazaire on April 7 to Fort-de-France on April 22. The CGT Ligne C ship *Venezuela* brought the letter to Paramaribo arriving on April 28. The closest arrival of mail sent by British packets arrived at Paramaribo on April 30 (SP collection).

p. 207. The KWIM steamers did not call Le Havre on the outward-bound sailings from Amsterdam and mail from foreign countries sent by KWIM to Suriname or Curaçao had to be directed via Amsterdam. When I wrote the book and ‘became aware’ of this fact I started to look for letters sent to Dutch West Indies by KWIM steamers. I could only find two items and concluded that this routing is unusual, but also that I might have overlooked such letters and postcards. Now I have recorded one letter from Germany and one postcard from Austria sent to Suriname via Amsterdam and KWIM. Thus, this routing seems to be unusual but I assume that over time there are several more items to be found.

p. 215. I have recorded one more KWIM steamer straight line name marking, i.e. ‘Per S.S. Prins Willem II via Havre’, on a postcard from Paramaribo sent to the Netherlands. Most likely it is a composite marking, ‘via Havre’ is one part and the rest makes up the other part of the marking.

Postage Tables 4.8, 5.5, A1.1. and A1.2. For a postal history collector of today, it is not straightforward to understand why the postage for sending a letter, postcard or printed matter should differ if you sent it from the Netherlands to the colony or from a Dutch colony to the Netherlands. However, that is the case from June 1, 1892, when the sea-surcharge was discarded on mail sent from the Netherlands but not if it was sent from the colony. It was not until 1903 that mail from the homeland and the colony was charged the same postages. The reason for dropping the sea-surcharge on mail sent from the Netherlands is said to be caused by competition from sending mail via foreign postal routes, like the British and French mail services. These differences in postages can result in interesting postal items as exemplified below in Fig. 3.16.



From June 1, 1892, the postage for a postcard sent from the Netherlands to the colony was 5 cents, while sending it in the other direction was 7.5 cents. This difference in postages is nicely demonstrated by the Dutch paid reply postcard shown in Fig. 3.16. The outbound 5 cents card was most likely sent 'per mail' from the Netherlands to Suriname, as the 5 cents postage was sufficient for that route. However, when the paid reply card should be sent back to Den Haag, it had to be uprated with a 2.5 cents Surinamese adhesive, as the postage for a card sent by 'mail' was 7.5 cents. The Paramaribo mark and the route mark (Su 6) of the card shown in Fig. 3.16 are struck in dark violet ink. The dark violet ink used here for the SU 6 postmark should be added to the Postmark Catalogue. There seems to be no 'rules' as to how these double cards should be called (Gough, 2019). But following James Gough's suggestions, I use the terms 'outbound card' and 'paid reply card', when they are no longer a 'double card' or 'reply card' and used separated from each other.



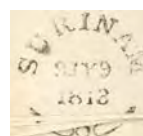
**Figure 3.16.** Paid Dutch reply postcard, uprated with a 2.5 cents Surinamese adhesive and sent from Paramaribo on November 11, 1893, to the Netherlands where it arrived on December 15, 1893. The card was sent by British mail and was wrongly endorsed 'via Southampton', but correctly marked 'Suriname via Plymouth' (Su 6) in dark violet ink, a colour previously not recorded for this route mark (SP collection).

## 4. Additions to the Postmark Catalogue

### 6.3.1. Pre-GPU mail. British occupation

|                               |          |       |                 |       |     |
|-------------------------------|----------|-------|-----------------|-------|-----|
| BO-Su-7A<br>Proud –<br>T&H*** | Demerara | Black | 1813            | 23x9* | RRR |
| BO-Su 15§<br>E&S -            | Suriname | Black | 6.1813 – 7.1813 | 30Ø   | RR  |

DEMERARY  
NOV 1813



\*\*\*From Townsend & Howe (1970). §Same handstamp as BO-Su 12, but date before and after month.

### 6.3.2. GPU/UPU-mail 1877 – 1908

#### Dutch Mail

Also the SU 16 handstamp was struck in dark violet ink from Jan. 1888 to Nov. 1893.

### 6.4.1. WIC and WH mail

|      |                       |       |      |        |      |
|------|-----------------------|-------|------|--------|------|
| WH 2 | WH office<br>Den Haag | Black | 1792 | 19x15* | RRR* |
|------|-----------------------|-------|------|--------|------|

6 ST  
WH

\*One letter recorded with the WH2 mark (see Errata text). Estimated dimensions of WH2.

### 6.4.3. Pre-GPU Dutch Zeebrief entry marks on Curaçao and Surinamese letters

|                |              |     |                     |         |     |
|----------------|--------------|-----|---------------------|---------|-----|
| Z25*<br>Z143** | 'sGravenhage | Red | 1832 – 1833<br>1846 | 48x28.5 | RRR |
|----------------|--------------|-----|---------------------|---------|-----|



### 6.4.5. Ship handstamps used on mail carried by KWIM steamers

KWIM 2. New ex. of a straight line ship cancellation 'Prins Willem V' and 'Prins Willem II via Havre'. Period of use of these straight line ship name handstamps 1901 – 1906.

### 6.9.1. French handstamps used on mail carried by CGT ships

|        |                                   |       |            |       |     |
|--------|-----------------------------------|-------|------------|-------|-----|
| 1444/3 | Postal agent St<br>Thomas Ligne B | Black | 1865-1873* | 21x21 | RRR |
|--------|-----------------------------------|-------|------------|-------|-----|



|      |  |              |                          |       |          |
|------|--|--------------|--------------------------|-------|----------|
| 1531 | Postal agent<br>Demerara/<br>Georgetown<br>Ligne C | Black<br>Red | 1875-1871*<br>1876-1881* | 21x21 | -<br>RRR |
|------|--|--------------|--------------------------|-------|----------|





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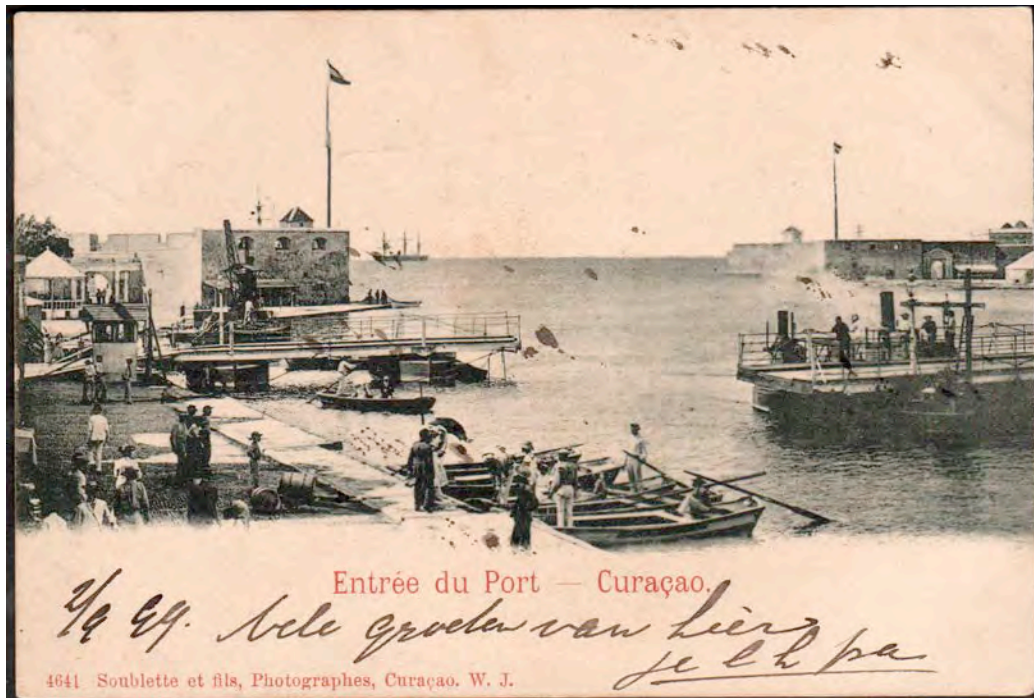
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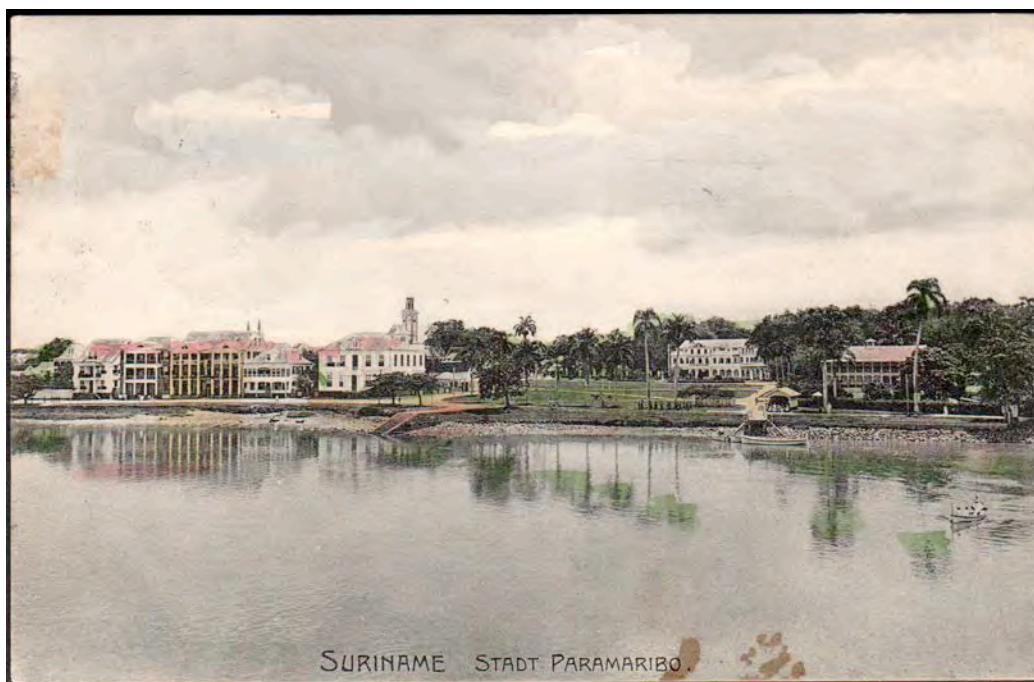
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The Willemstad harbour circa 1899 (SP collection)



Waterfront circa 1910 (SP collection)