

A Review of 1880-1912 Netherlands East Indies “Auxiliary Post Offices” and its use of Langstempels (Straight Line Postmarks)

In addition to the Netherlands East Indies's main Post Offices a large number of **auxiliary Post Offices** were gradually set up to facilitate sending and receiving of mail in smaller towns and villages.

These can be identified on posted mail by their use of **Langstempels** (Straight Line Postmarks) which may be boxed or unboxed. These *auxiliary post offices* send their mail to the nearest main NEI Post Office for its CDS date stamping and then sent onto the addressee.

Examples of this mail include the main NEI Post office date stamp in addition to the auxiliary post office *Langstempel*.

In *Peter Storm van Leeuwen's "Poststempel Catalogus Nederlands Indie 1864-1942"*¹, he lists over 400 Langstempels in use up to 1912. He also provides a point-based rating of relative scarcity by selecting 21 different point levels from 1 to 125 and adding further scarcer levels for R, RR, and RRR (this latter category possibly unique). The list of *Peter Storm van Leeuwen's* Langstempels is organised alphabetically, as are other postmarks in his Catalogus.

In order to improve an understanding of these postmarks and their relative scarcity, his A-Z listing has been re-arranged into the selected “*points value*” order, alphabetically listed, within each such level. This is an attempt to make it easier for collectors to better understand relative scarcity in this area of NEI Postal History.

The following 1 to 7 examples show some Langstempels from these categories.

By 1912 many of these auxiliary offices had been made into official Hulppostkantoren, or sub-post offices, and Langstempels were replaced by circular dated postmarks (Grootrond or Kortebalkstempels).

This review is based on a display given to the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria (in Victoria Australia) in May 2024. It is not intended to be the last word on this subject but to encourage more collectors to develop their interest in these postmarks.

This early period is no doubt a fascinating area for further collecting and research for at the end of the 1914-1918 war up to 1942 when the NEI was invaded.

NEI's merchant service, Navy, airforce and Military retreated to Australia setting up a Netherlands Government Embassy for the Netherlands Government had retreated when it was invaded in Europe. Together with the retreating United States from the Philippines, the three nations combined merchant Service, naval, airforce and military influx ensured Australia and its supporters were able to reverse the invaders in New Guinea giving postal historians interesting areas to research.

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and *Peter Hardie*

¹ *Poststempel Catalogus Nederlands-Indie 1864-1942* by Peter Storm van Leeuwen published by NVPH 1995

**“Auxiliary Post
Offices’ names”
Relative Scarcity
Levels 1-125 plus
“R - RRR”.**

1

AMOERANG
BALANG-NIPA
BATANG
BELAWAN
BODJA
BONTHAIN
DEPOK
EMMAHAVEN
KEPANDJEN
KERTOSONO
KEDONG-DJATTI
KOENINGAN
KOETOARDJO
KROE
KWALA
LAMONGAN
LOEBOE PAKAM
LOEBOEG PAKAM
MAOS
MAÖS
NGANDJOEK
OENARANG
PAJAKOMBO
PANDEGLANG
PARAAN
PAREE
PAROENGKOEDA
PARONG KOEDA
PASIRIAN
PEMALANG
PERBAOENGAN
PORRONG
PRAMBON
RANTJA EKEK
SAWAHLOENTO
SINDANGLAIJA
SINDANGLAJA
SOEKOREDJO
SOENGEI RAMPAN
SOLOK
SRAGEN
TAROENA
TJEPOE
TANGEHANG
TJAMIS

TJIBADAK
TJI-BADAK
TJIBEBER
TJITJALENGKA
TONDANO
WAROE
WATES

2

BABAT
BREBES
DONGGALA
GOENDIH
KEDOENG-D-JATIE
KOETOEARDJO
OENGARAN
PENJABOENGAN
MENES
POERBOLLINGO
POSSO
RANGKASBETOENG
TAJOE
TANDJONG PRIOK
TFIENGGALEK
TRENGALEK
WIRQSARI

3

BLORA
HADJALENGKA
KOEPANG
KENDANGAN
KOETEI
KOTABAROE
MAROS
MOENTILAN
PETJANGAAN
SINTANG
TJIRENGAS

4

BATOE
KEDOENGDJATTI
TJILEGON

5

KNOETANAM
KAIOE-TANAM
KALIBAROE
KAUSAT
KEDONG-DJATIE
LAWANG
MANGOEN-REDJA

PRIAMAN
SAMPANG
SINGKAWANG
TASIKMALAJA
TASIKMEIJUA
SQNGOSARI
TJILEDOK
TJIMAH
WELERI

7

BINDJEI
BRINGIN
DELI
KAUOE-TANAM
KOEALA SIMPANG
MAG ETAN
MARTAPOERA
MEULABOH
MONT RADO
MOEARA-TEWEH
PAINAN
RAMBIPOEDJI
RAU
SIDAUOE
TAGOGAPOE
TJIBATDE
TJIKAMPEK
WALI KOEKOEN
WONOGIRI

8

BENGKALIS
INDRAMAYOE
SAMBAS
UNTIDO

10

BANGKINANG
DJOMBANG
GOENOENGSIYOU
KEDOENG DJATIE
LABOEAN ROEKOE
LABOEHA
LEBONG-DONOK
LEBONG-SOELIT
PAGAR-ALAM
PEMATANG SIANTAR
PENGALANGAN
RANKAS BETOENG
TAPA TOEAN
TJIKADJANG

15

BALAPOELANG
BALIGE
BAGOEN POERBA
BLINJOE
GALANG
KRAWANG
NATAL
PAMALANG
POERWOKERTO
TJITJOEROEG
TJITERAS

18

MENEZ

20

BANGOENPOERBA
FAKFAK
BOEMIAJOE
KEDOENG-DJATTIE
KISARAN
KLAKAH
LANGKAT
MARABAHAN
OLEHLEH
SAPAHOE
SOEMALATA
TASSIKMALAUO
TQELANGAN
TOMOHON

25

LASEM
MANGAR
PADANGAN
TANAWANGKO

30

AMOENTHAI
BAN DAR
CELEBES
KOTAAGOENG
LEMBANG
MANAKWARI
MOEARA-TEBO
MONONDJAJA
PANAROEKAN
PARE PARE
PRIOKTJAHOE
SINGKARA

TEMPEH
TANGGOEL
WATAMPONE

35

PIROE
AJERBANGIS
BAOE BAOE
BATANG TARO
DJEBOES
DJENAR
KADIPATEN
KLAMPOK
LABOEANHADJI
MADJA
PANGKADJENE
TALOE
TJAROEBAN
TOEAL
TOEMPANG

40

BANGLI
BIREUEN
BOEDING
ENDE
MADJENE
MENGGA
SOEMBABA

45

AMAHEI
DOBO
GANTOENG
GOMBONG
KOTABAROE
BATANG HARI
LONG IRAM
POELOE TELLO
POERWODADIE
PREMBOEN
RANGKASBITOENG
SIDIKALANG
SIDAJOE
TASSIK-MALAJA
TJIKADONGDONG
WAHAAI

50

BALEISEUKSA
BIMA
BAWEAN
DJASINGA
HAJOEP

KARIMONDJAWA
KEBOEMEN
KEMA
KEMIRI
KOEDOES
LOEWOEK
MAG ETFAN
NGEBROEK
MODJOAGOENG
MAMOEDJOE
PRIGEN
SIDJOENG
SINABANG
TANDJOENGSELOR
TANDJONG-REDEB
TOEHEN
TOBELO
WELAHAN

60

BANGKALAN
BEKASSI
BLITAR
BOIJOLALIE
FORT V.D. KAPELLEN
HUMBOLDTSBAAI
MALILI
MANONDJAIJA
MINGGIRAN
PAIJA-COMBO
PAMPENOE
PENJAMBOENGAN
SIMPANG

65

AMONTHAI
BONDOWOSSO .
DEMAK
GOENOENGSOEGIH
KROJA
MOEARA TAMBESI
MOEARA TEBESI
ONRUST
PALOPPO
PANGKAL PINANG
SINGOSARIE
TELOKDALEM
TEMANGONG

70

AMOENTAI
BATOERADJA
BOELELING
DJAWANA
GAROET
OELOE- SIAOE

PALOE
PAYACOM BA
PELANTOENGAN

75

BANGIL
BERBEK
DINDANG
DJATIROTO
DJEPANG
KENDARI
KRAKSAAN
LABOEAN
LOEMADJANG
PLADJOE
SOEKOREDJO.
TANDJOENG POERA

80

MALANG
MEJNGBONG
MODJOKERTO
PONOROGO
RONDENG
SOENGEILAT
SOENGEISLAN
TOELONG-AGOONG

85

BANDJARNEGARA
BANGKALANG
BODJONEGORO
RANGKASBETONG
SOEKA BOEMIE

90

BALI KPAPAN

100

BATOE-DJADJAR
FORT V-D CAPELLEN
KARANG-ANJER
KARANGASAM
KLATTEN
KLOENGKOENG
KOLONODALE
PALOER
POELOE RAJA
SAROELANGOEN
SIPIROK
TJIPANAS
WONOSOBO

125

BODJONGLOPANG
BOELOEKOEMBA

BRAMBANAN
GODONG
GOENOENG SITOLIE
JAPARA
MOEARA BOENGO
PETFA
POELOERAJA
SAWANGTOENGKOE

R

BANGKO
BAROS
GALELA
KOETATJANE
LABOEAN BADJO
LAHAT
LANGSATOENONG
MEESTER CORNELIS
MEESTERCORNELIS
PALABOEHANRATOE
POELQE AJER
RATATOTOK
SAMPIT
SDENG EILIMAU
SIDHO-ARDJO
SITOE BOND
TAKALAR
TJERIENGIEN
TOENTANG

ov. R

KANTOORI
MERAWANG

RR

AM BAL
BAGAN API API
BANGGAAI
BINTOEHAN
ECLIPSKAMP/KARAN
G SAGO
KOB
MOEARA SAIBI
PRIGIRADJA
SIK SHI
INDRAPOERA
SIBOHONGBORONG
TAMAKO
TEBING-TINGDE
TOTOK

RRR

ANJER
BAWEN
BONDJOL
DJENEPONTO

GESER
GORONTALO
HAPPANG
INDRAGIRI
KARANGSONO
LAB: HADJIE
LAMNGA
LOEBOEK-SOELASIH
MALARCO.
OLEH-LEH
PADANG PANDJANG
PADANG/ PANDJANG
PADANG-/SIDEMPOEAN
PALEMBAYAN
PANTIE
SALEIER
SIAK
SBOGA
SIMPANGAWAS
SINGKEL
SUMANAP
TJOEROEP

Ov. RRR

SEGLI
DJAMBI

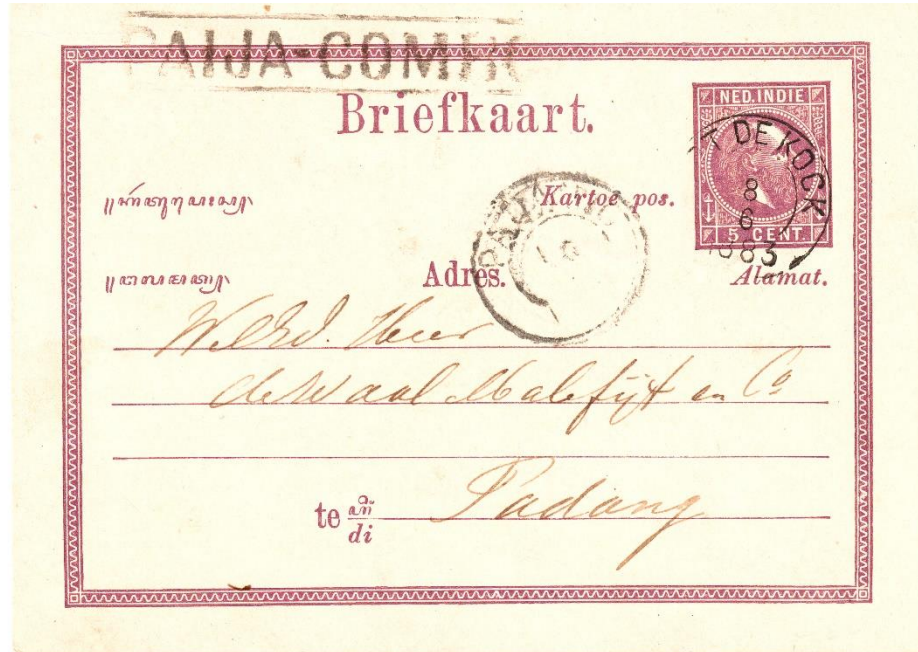
LOEBOESIKAPING ?

BUITENZORG - ?

Examples of *Langstempel* Post Cards and Covers from Wilkins Collection.

1883

5 cent purple King William Post Card with single Line Auxiliary Post Office *Langstempel* 60 x10 mm boxed **PAIJA COMBO 1st. June 1883** (*manuscript on back of card indicates date it was written*). This was forwarded to nearest NEI Post Office **FORT DE KOCK 8 Jun 1883**. This Post Office had been established in 1825 at **Bukittinggi, West Sumatra**, and was north of the mail's destination at **PADANG (10) 6 1993**. Scarcity Level 60



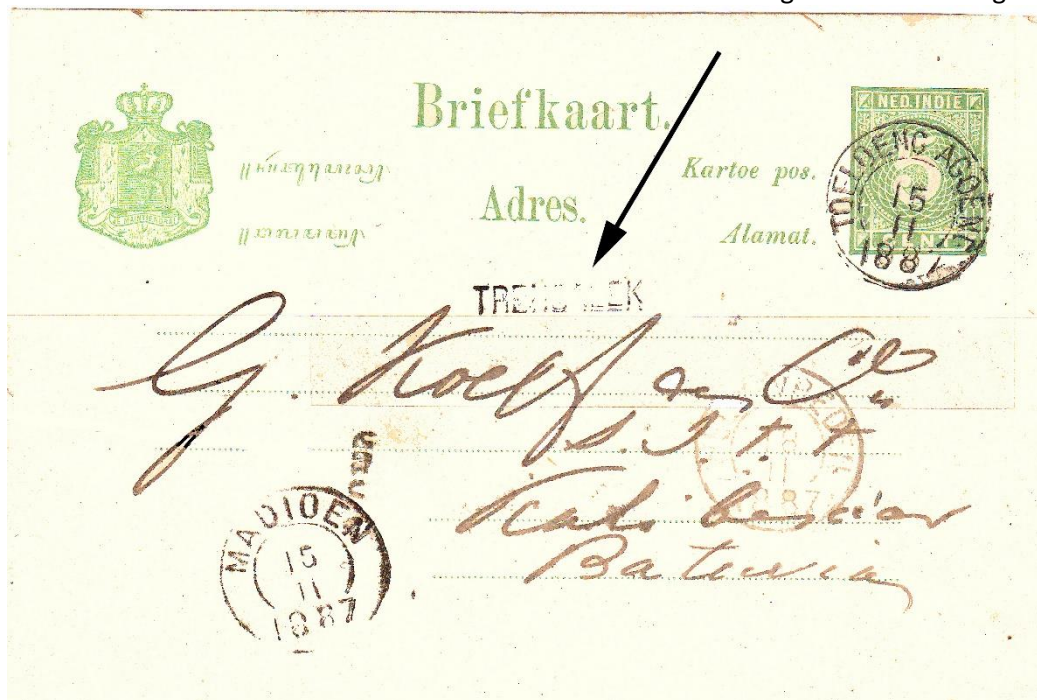
1887

Langstempel (Longitudinal Pmk) TRENGALEK 3½ mm hand stamp.

Scarcity Level 2

5 Cent green postal stationery Auxiliary Post Office *Langstempel* **TRENGALEK** then handed to nearest NEI Post Office where it received a CDS Pmk **TOELOENG AGOENG CDS 15 1 87**. Card addressed to Java's **Batavia** received a transit **MADIOEN 15 11 87** Pmk before arriving at NEI Post Office **WELTEVREDEN 18 11 87**, a suburb of Batavia. The cover has a "avond" hand cancel indicating it was an evening mail delivery.

Scarcity Level 2



1887

5 Cent Green Post Card with Auxiliary Post Office **LANGSTEMPEL PAMALANG** 21 x 3 mm post mark **1 II 1887**. This mail was sent to the nearest NEI Post Office and received the **KENDAL 1 11 87** a **CDS** and forwarded the mail to its **Djoewana** destination.

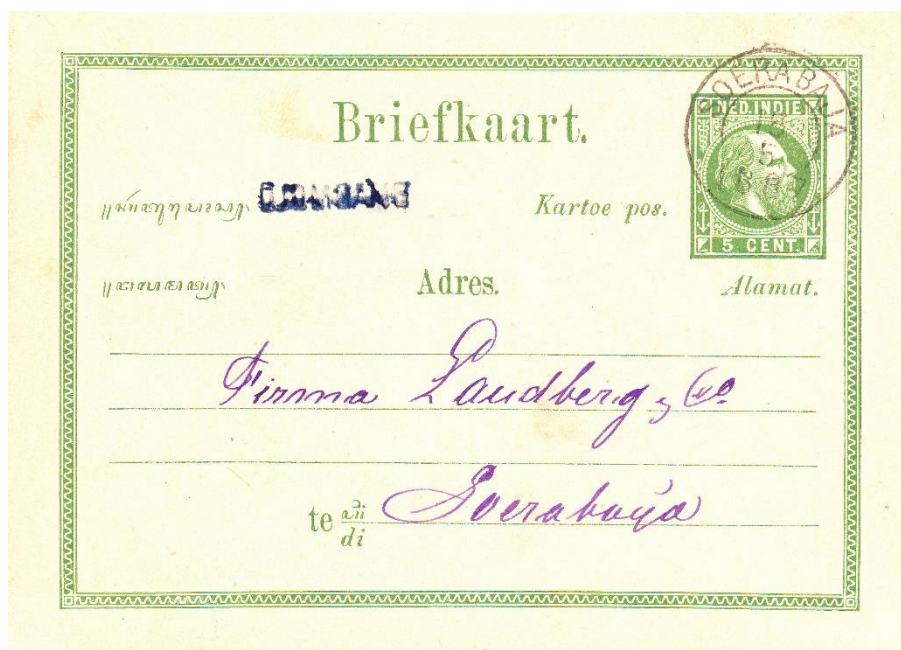
Relative Scarcity Level 15



1887

5 Cent Green King William Postal Stationery with the Auxiliary Post Office **LANGSTEMPEL DJOMBANG** 20 x 4 mm single Line Pmk . It was delivered to Java's nearest NEI Post Office **SOERABAJA** which applied a **15 5 1887** CDS. for a local destination.

Scarcity Level 10



1888

5 cent green numeral Postal Stationery with Auxiliary Post Office LANGSTEMPEL **LASEM** 15 x 4 mm single Line Pmk . It was delivered to nearest NEI Post Office **BIMBANG 20 6 1888 CDS**. Scarcity Level 25



1888

5 cent green numeral Postal Stationery with Auxiliary Post Office LANGSTEMPEL **WADJALENGKA** mm single Line 26 x 3 mm Pmk . It was delivered to local NEI Post Office **CHERIBON 4 1 1888 CDS**. Scarcity Level 3



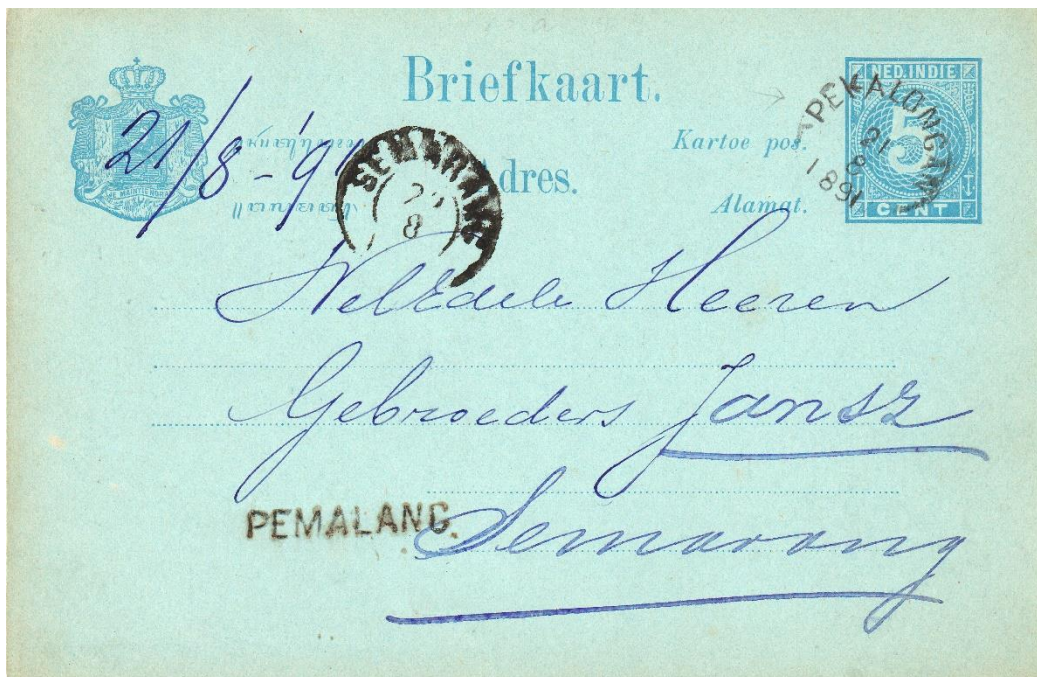
1889

5 cent Bluish numeral Postal Stationery with Auxiliary Post Office LANGSTEMPEL **LAMONGAN** boxed 6 x 1 cm single Line Pmk . It was delivered to Java's nearest NEI Post Office **GRISSE 7 10 89** CDS. Then to Batavia via Batavia's **WELTERVREDEN 11 10 89** suburban post office. Scarcity Level 1



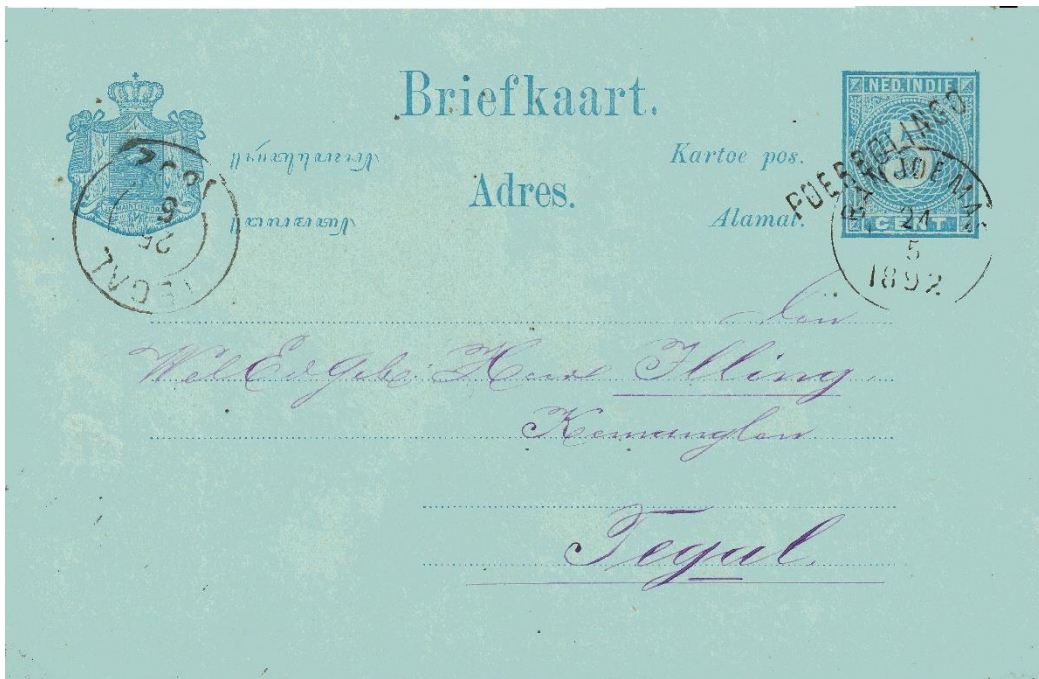
1891

5 cent Bluish numeral Postal Stationery with Auxiliary Post Office LANGSTEMPEL **PAMALANG** 25 x 4 mm single Line Pmk . It was delivered to Java's nearest NEI Post Office **PEKALONGEN 21 8 1891** CDS. Then delivered to destination suburban post office **SEMARANG 21 8 1891**. Scarcity Level 1



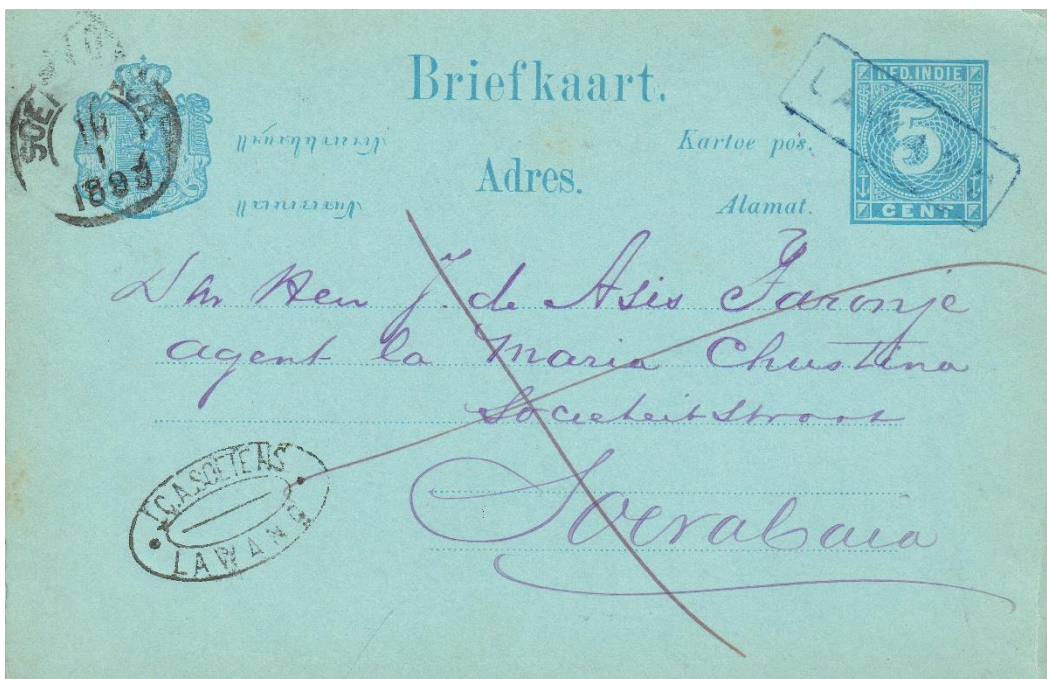
1892

5 cent Bluish numeral Postal Stationery with Auxiliary Post Office LANGSTEMPEL **POERBOLLINGO 27 x 3 mm** single Line Pmk . It was delivered to Java's nearest NEI Post Office **BANJOEMAS 24 5 1892** CDS. Then delivered to its destination, Java's suburban post office **TEGAL 25 5 1892**. Scarcity Level 2



1897

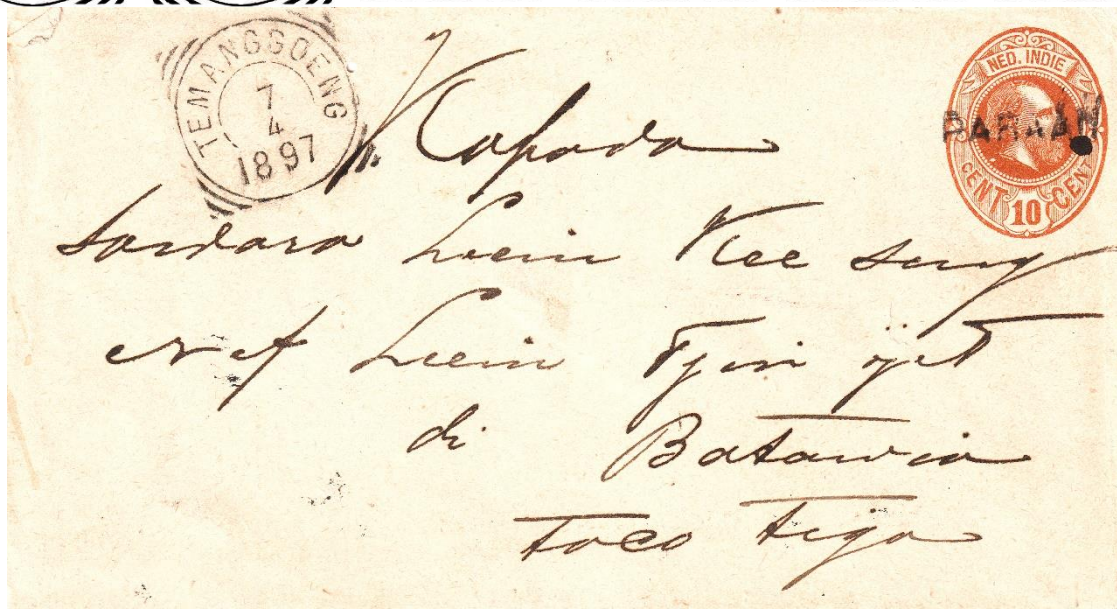
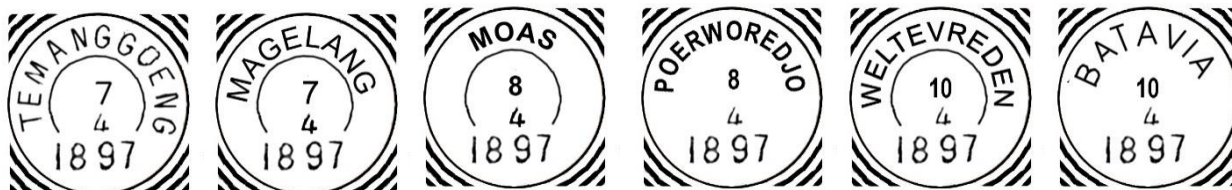
5 cent blue numeral postal stationery. The Langstempel Auxiliary Post Office applied a boxed hand stamp **10 x 31mm LAWANG** single Line Pmk. An *"I.C.A. Soetens Lawang"* oval cancel was also applied which may indicate a commercial interest. The mail was received at Java's **SOERABAJA NEI Post Office** on **10 1 1897** the nearest NEI Post Office. Scarcity Level 5



1897

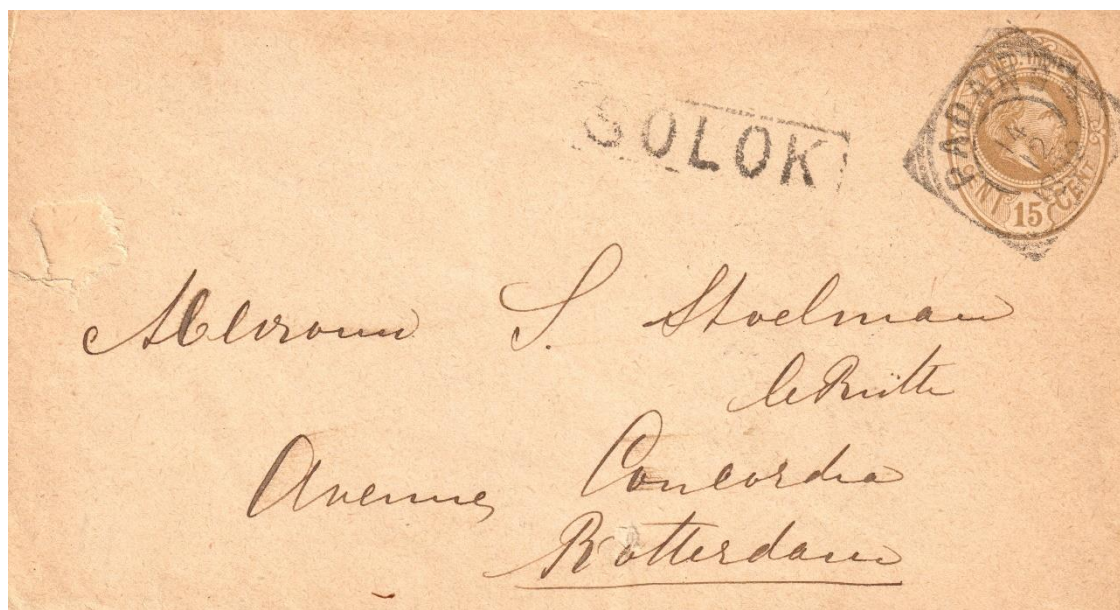
10 cent Brown King William Postal stationery. A *Langstempel* Auxiliary Post Office **PARAAN 27 x 5 mm** single Line Pmk was applied and mail was sent to the nearest NEI Post Office **TEMANGOENG 7 4 1897**. It is assumed the Auxiliary date would have been the day before. The mail was then progressively delivered to 5 more NEI Post Offices on the way to Batavia.

Scarcity Level 1



1898

15 cent Brown King William postage paid stationery cover. The *Langstempel* Auxiliary Post Office boxed **37 x 9 mm Pmk SOLOK**, was hand stamped on cover. It was then delivered to Sumatra's nearest NEI Post Office **PADANG 14 12 1898** CDS Pmk and then by merchant ship on to its mail destination ROTTERDAM. Scarcity Level 1

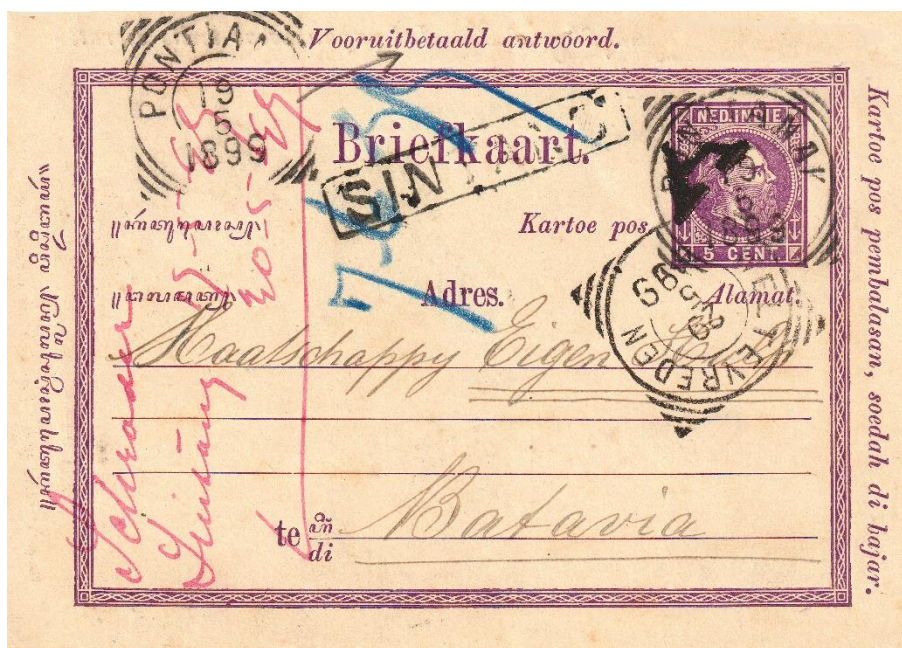


1899

5 cent Purple King William post Card. The west Borneo *Langstempel* **SINTANG** single Line Auxiliary Post Office Pmk, boxed **40 x 8 mm** (letters 5 mm high), applied on the post card. It was then delivered to nearest NEI Post Office **PONTIANAK** receiving its square Pmk. It was then sent on to Batavia, the mail being handled by Batavia's suburban **WESTERVREDEN** Post Office. Scarcity



Level 3



1901

Postal Stationery - **20 cent Blue** King William issue revalued with a black "10" overprint. The Auxiliary Post Office *Langstempel* dark blue **LANGSTEMPEL KEPANDJEN** single Line Pmk, **35 x 4 mm** (letters 5 mm high), was applied after it added the 2 x **10 cent Grey Lilac Queen Wilhelmina** 1900 overprinted issues.



The mail was delivered to nearest NEI Post Office **MALANG 12 2 1901** who added its **Registration** label and its square Postmark. It was then sent on to **BANJOEWANG NEI** Post Office. Scarcity Level 1



1903

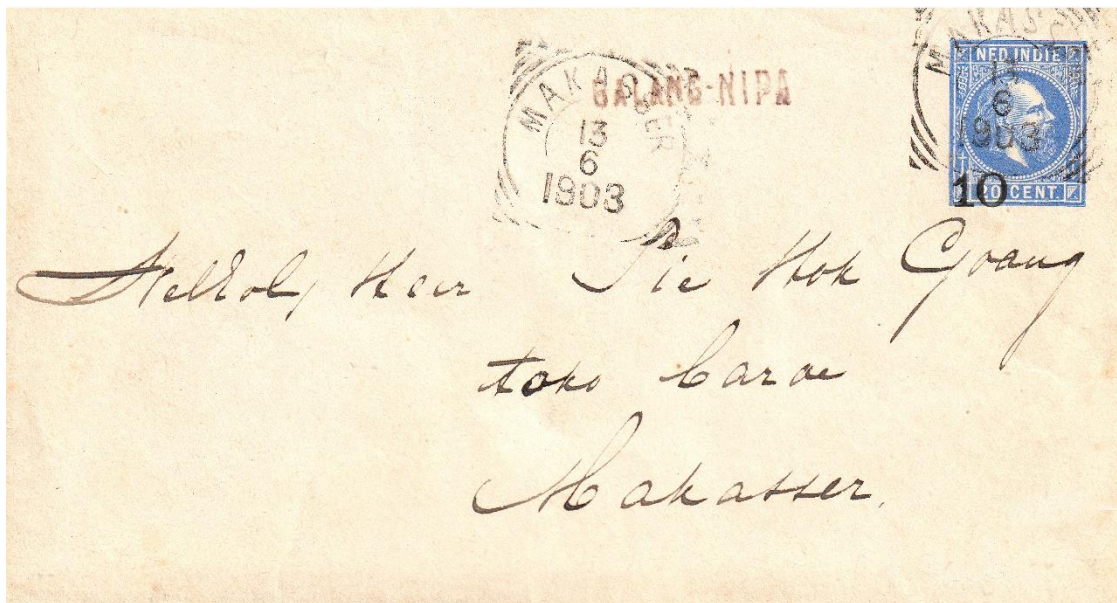
5 Cent Red numeral postal stationery postcard had a 3 cent 1899 Violet numeral issue overprinted 2% cent in 1902 added to provide the basic UPU 7½ Cent mail charge. The **MADJO SRAGEN** Auxiliary Post Office applied a 17 x 4 mm Langstempel Auxiliary Post Office handstamp "**SRAGEN**" 12 8 1903 and it was delivered to the nearest NEI Post Office **SOERABAJA** 13 8 1903 in eastern Java. It was postmarked **WELTEVREDEN** 14 8 1903 in Western Java. A very speedy delivery from East to West Java possibly by State and private railways in Java. Card delivery from NEI to Germany, Pmk dated **13 9 1903** took a month by Mail ship and may have also been handled by UPU member nations European rail network from Italy if the mail ship was not scheduled to dock at a German Port. **Scarcity Level 1**



1903

20 cent King William Ultramarine Postal Stationery overprinted 10 Cents . This stationery was hand stamped *Langstempel* Auxiliary Post Office **GALANG-NIPA** in Violet. This was transferred to nearest NEI Post Office **MAKASSER** 13 6 1903 in south Celebes (*Sulowesi*) where the mail was addressed. The Violet hand stamp may not be associated with State Rail in *Sulowesi*.

Scarcity Level 15



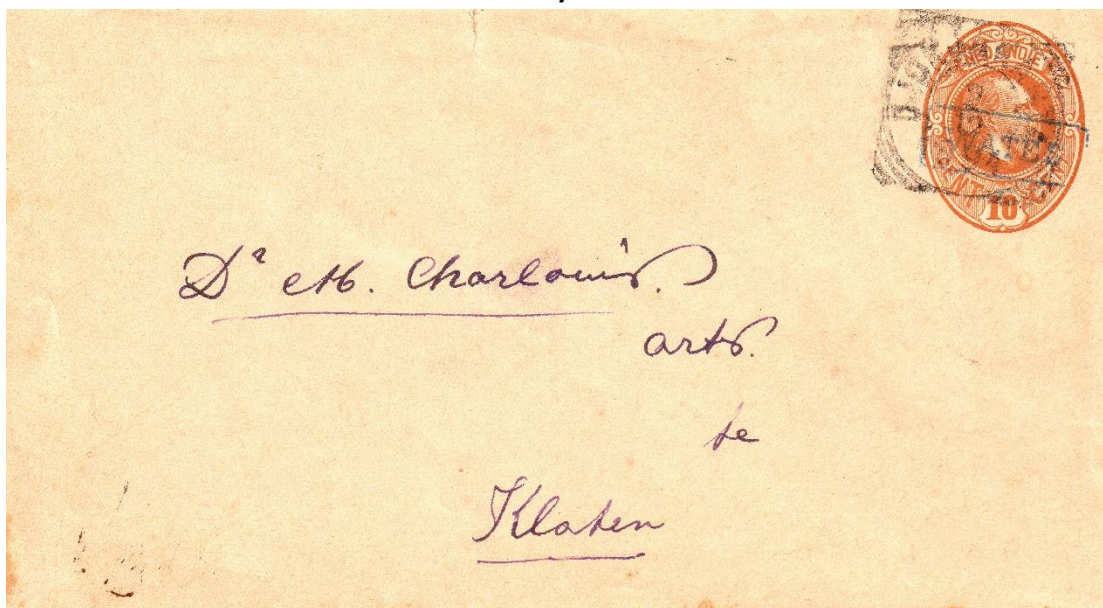
1904



10 cent Orange brown postal stationery with *Langstempel* boxed **WATES 22 x 8 mm** hand stamp. Mail transferred to nearest NEI Post Office **DJOOKJAKARTA 3 12 1903**, a south east coast Java port. From here it was delivered to **KLATEN**.



Scarcity Level 1



1904

7½ cent deep purple postcard with *Langstempel* 21 x 4 mm single line Hand stamp **AMOERANG 29 Jan 1904**. Mail transferred to nearest NEI Post Office **SOERABAJA 29 Jan 1904**. From here it was delivered by mail ship from NEI to Germany and possible by UPU member rail systems (if ship did not dock in Germany) to **Leiden, Germany 21 Mar 1904**.

Scarcity Level 1



1906

7½ cent deep purple Post Card with *Langstempel* 27 x 5 mm single line Hand stamp **TAROENA June 1904**. Mail transferred to nearest NEI Post Office **SOERABAJA 10 6 1906**. From here it was delivered west to **WELTERVREDEN 12 Jun 1906**. By an available Merchant Service Mail Ship it travelled from NEI to Germany. It is possible UPU member rail systems (if ship did not dock in Germany) assisted in final overland delivery from Italian Port to Germany arriving **Bestelli on 11 Jul 1906**.

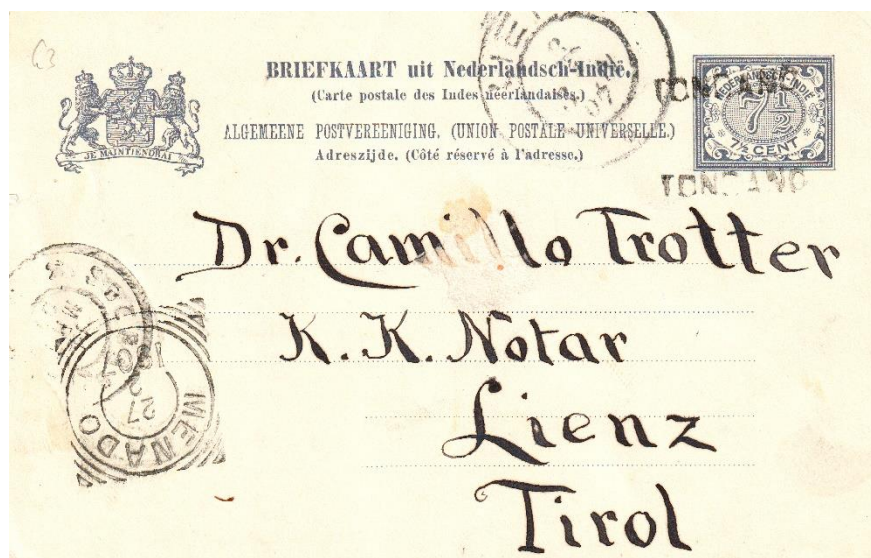
Scarcity Level 1



1907

The North Celebes has a large Christian community. This 7½ cent deep purple post card addressed to **LIENZ** in **AUSTRIA** had a *Langstempel* **TONDANO 12 7 1907, 23 x 4 mm** hand stamp added. **TONDANO** Auxiliary Post Office was first opened in 1897. Mail sent to nearest North Celebes (*Sulawesi*) NEI Post Office mail ship received a square **MENADO 27 2 1907**. From here it took 15 days by Merchant Service mail Ship to reach East Java's **SOERABAJA 11 Mar 1907**. Mail Ship to Europe via the Suez Canal and Mediterranean sea then transferred to Italian port for Italian Post Office to send mail by rail to Austria by UPU international transport of mail by rail heading for **Lienz**, a medieval town in the Austrian state of **Tyrol** in the Eastern Alps, between the Hohe Tauern mountain range in the north and the Gailtal Alps in the south. Mail arrived **LIENZ. 3 4 1907**. From one globally remote town to another.

Scarcity Level 1



1907

This 5 cent Red Post Card



5 Cent red post card has hand stamped a "LAMONGAN" a 34 x 5 mm Single Line postmark by the *Langstempel* **LAMONGAN** Auxiliary Post Office.

This Mail is forwarded to nearest NEI Post Office, **BOOJUNLGOR 4 10 1907**



who forwards to its destination, **TJEPOE 28 10 1907.**

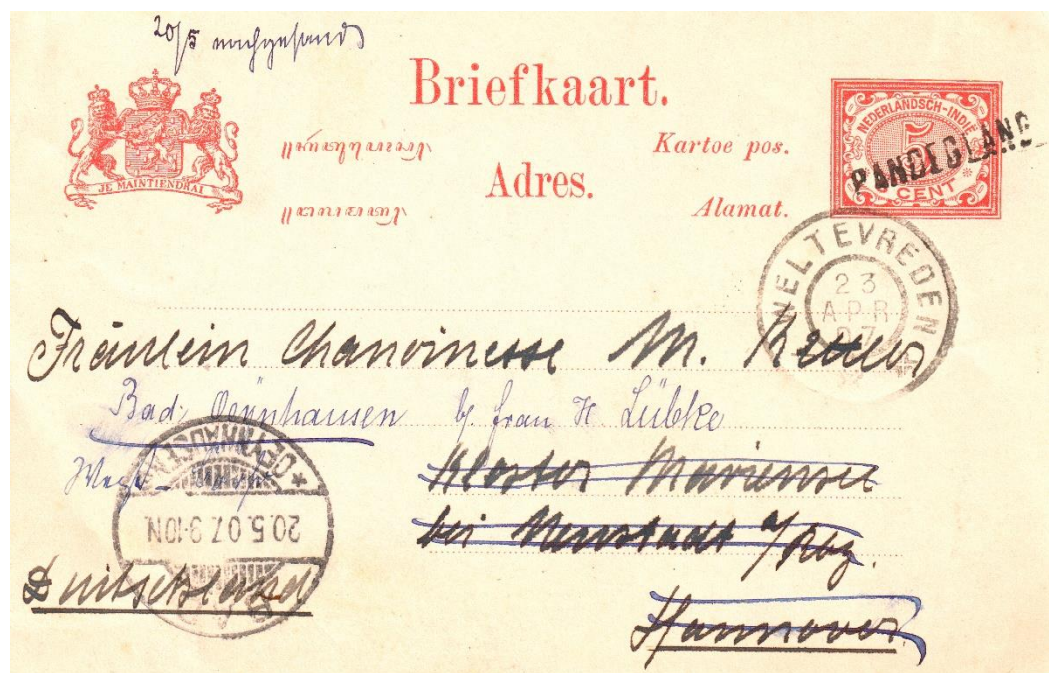
Scarcity Level 1



1907

5 Cent Red Post Card hand stamped with *Langstempel* Auxiliary Post Office 24 x 3mm "PANDEGLANG" 21 IV 09 hand stamp. The mail is transferred to nearest NEI Post Office **WELTERDREDEN 23 APR 07** for final delivery arriving GERMANY "BAD" 20 5 07

Scarcity Level 1

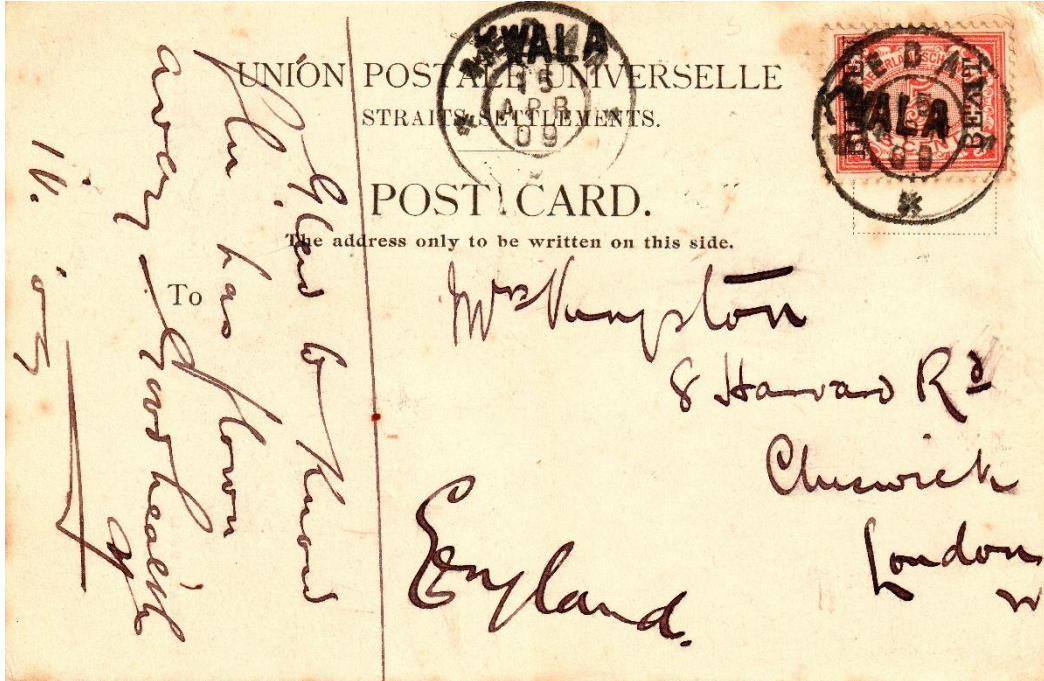
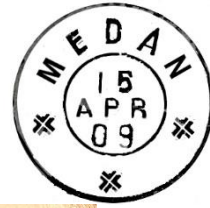


1909

Picture post Card with 5 cent red stamp added for sending to London.

A *Langstempel* Auxiliary Post Office **KWALA** adds its handstamp.

Mail was sent to nearest North Sumatran NEI Post Office "**MEDAN 15 Apr 1909**" for postmarking and forwarding to England. Scarcity Level 1



1910

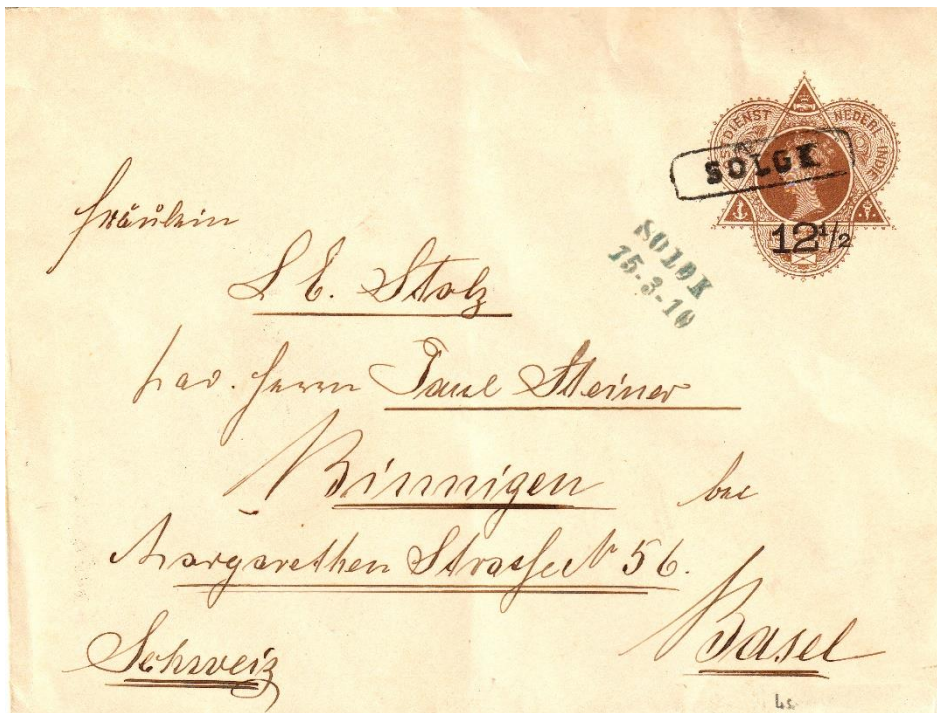
A 15 cent brown Queen Wilhelmina postal stationery stamp overprinted 12½ cent.

It received NEI *Langstempel* Auxiliary Post Office hand stamp "**SOLOK**" boxed 29 x 8 mm plus a two line separate hand stamp "**SOLOK 15 3 10**". The mail was addressed to **BASEL** a northern most Canton in Switzerland.

Scarcity



Level 1



1912

Je Maintiendra ("I will maintain") This post card on the upper left corner crest of the House of Orange-Nassau, which William of Orange inherited but successors deleted the word "Nassau" to "**Je maintiendra**" - the Netherlands motto since 1815.

5 cent red Post Card with Langstempel Auxiliary Post Office "**BALIGE**" hand stamp added. This was sent to nearest NEI Post Office **GIBOLGA 5 10 1912** CDS and the mail sent by Mail ship to Europe. and Germany .

Scarcity Level 15

