

The July, 2020 meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club is cancelled. But once again, we have been treated with another superb contribution from Dick Colberg, who has provided us with an enticing narrative of three of the most obscure stamp-issuing locales you will ever hear about. I'm sure we'd all love to be sitting around the table at the library listening to him as he shares these with us, but Dick's writing is the next best thing to him being with us!

ANOTHER COUNTRY HEARD FROM!

By Dick Colberg

In this issue I will expose you to a few countries' stamps you have probably not heard about.

The first is Nadorp, a small Dutch colony on the North Sea. This first stamp is a 2-Buis value from a 1966 30-stamp set showing common everyday things in the life of the Nadorpsche people. This one shows a rainbow and a kettle.



The next, appropriate for a Dutch colony, is an 8-Buis value from a 1953 20-stamp set of windmills.



Next, we have a 35-Buis value beet stamp from a 1961-63 16-stamp set showing various vegetables and root vegetables (8 each).



Then, we have an 8-Buis value postage due stamp from a 1942 30-stamp set. Values run from ½-Buis to 3-Janssen. (100 Buis = 1 Janssen)



Lastly, we have a postcard on which are affixed four stamps from the 1924 airmail set.



Next, we have the Dutch kingdom of Yteke. It is named after its first monarch, Queen Yteke. Shown here is the 50-ij value from the 36-stamp set of definitives from 1878-96. (100 ij = 1 IJ)



To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Northern Territories, a 10-value set was issued. The 50-ij value is shown here.



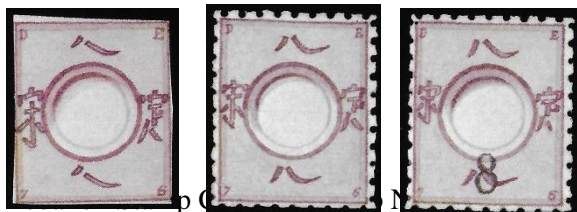
Next is the 2 ½ ij value from the 13-stamp set commemorating the fauna of Yteke. Here we see the beaver.



Lastly, we have the 90 ij value from the 1938 set of 6 triangular airmail stamps.



Sung-Ting, no longer in existence, was a small Asian territory. Its Coat of Arms was a Tingware plate. The first set of 10 stamps featured this coat of arms in 10 values and was issued imperforate in 1880. After acquiring a perforating machine, the set was re-issued in 1884 perforated. Then for U.P.U. compliance, the set was re-issued in 1893 with the values overprinted in Arabic numerals. The 8-cent value is shown here in all three versions.



In 1928 a set of 24 airmail stamps was issued. Here we see the 5-cent value overprinted 500 cents, or 5 Sung-Ting dollars.



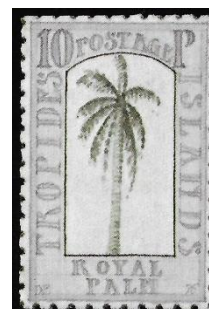
The Tropides is a small group of islands in the Caribbean. Shown first is the 50-merle value from the 1930 allegorical landscapes set of 4.



Following is the 35-merle value from the 8-stamp pictorial set issued in 1938.



In 1949 the Tropides issued a 20-value set of stamps featuring their indigenous palm trees. Shown here is the 10-peek Royal Palm. (100 merles = 1 peek)



1962 saw a 16-value set of commemoratives featuring the fruits of the Tropides. Shown here is the 4-merle guava stamp.



Lastly, we have an 8-stamp set featuring Tropidesian pieced quilts. Shown is the 15-merle stamp.



Interesting, right? Well forget everything you've read up to this point. It's all a lie! These stamps and their countries are all from the fertile imagination of artist Donald Evans. He was born in 1945 in Morristown, NJ and died, tragically, in a fire in Amsterdam at age 31.

From a young age, Evans was both a stamp collector and an artist. Over his career, he invented 42 different countries and painted the stamps to go with each. Most of the made-up names came from friends or areas that were special to him.

I first became acquainted with the works of Donald Evans in the mid-1990s. I was taking an art history course in conjunction with getting my appraisal certificate. One day the class met at a Manhattan art gallery. There I spotted two works by Evans and thought they were real sets of

stamps mounted in a frame. Nope! They were painted in watercolor. Every one of them. Every detail, perforations, irregular perf tears and all. I was enthralled. I left the gallery that day with the idea that I might purchase these paintings. I thought I heard the price as \$1,600. Later I found out that I was low by a factor of 10. Scratch that idea!

Paintings by Donald Evans come up for auction occasionally, but not often. His art works are represented today by an art gallery in New York. I have viewed them there. I still cannot afford them!

The next time we have a real face-to-face stamp club meeting I will bring the book, *The World of Donald Evans* by Willy Eisenhart, from which the accompanying illustrations were scanned.

In the book, the stamps from 25 of the 42 countries he invented are shown full size and in full color. There are many shown on cover. Even the covers are painted images! An exception, I believe, is the postcard shown above. It appears to be a real postcard on which he painted his stamps. But, without the real McCoy, it is only my guess.

Postcards from a Ruined Economy

In my opinion, the APS made the most of a bad situation when they transitioned their summer learning session to an online learning platform. I didn't take full advantage of that, as I am fortunate enough to be able to telework, but at the suggestion of a good philatelic friend I participated in a session on one of my favorite philatelic subjects, the Germany inflation period. The presenter, Jeff Shapiro, specializes in 20th century postal history, including the 1938 Presidential Series. But when he decided

to take a break from that, he added German postal history to his repertoire, including the inflation period.

Jeff illustrated this volatile time with postcards from the many different rate periods. There were 25 inflation rate periods, ranging in duration from a couple of months, to four days (by contrast, German postal rates were unchanged from the time the Reich's Post was established in 1872 until the first rate increase during World War I).

The rate periods began to change so rapidly that the postal authorities began overprinting old stocks of stamps beginning in August, 1923. It was even worse for consumers; many laborers were paid twice a day, in cash, because the money they earned in the morning lost so much value by the time their shift was over.

Some of the interesting facts that I learned from Jeff's presentation were:

- Sometimes postal clerks used rubber stamps to frank mail, because they simply didn't have adequate stamps available; Jeff shared an example sent to Romania that had been franked this way, but because the clerk in Romania didn't recognize it was paid, they applied postage due stamps to it
- Germans rarely overpaid the postal rate; but Jeff has an example of a 48 billion Mark rate postcard paid with 50 billion mark of stamps. In reality, this "convenient

overpayment" was the equivalent of less than ½ a cent

- In December 1923, Germany introduced their new currency, the Rentenmark. Old stamps continued to be valid at the rate of 0.20 Rentenmark = 200 Billion old Mark. Covers showing the mixed use of old stamps and new stamps are highly prized, but frequently faked. Old stamps continued to be used into mid-summer 1924 at the new conversion rate.
- By the end of this period of economic tumult, in purely numerical terms, it cost more German Mark to mail a postcard than the Germans owed in reparations to the Allies when the Treaty of Versailles was ratified.

Almost 100 years later, millions of mint stamps are available from the inflation era, because the government sold their stock of obsolete stamps to stamp dealers in 1924. Because of the abundance, this period can be collected rather inexpensively. That doesn't mean collecting the inflation period can't be a fun challenge, however. It took Jeff 10 years to find all of the German postal rates for a 10-frame exhibit. And flyspeckers can spend years and years examining overprinting and perforation varieties.