

NETHERLANDS TB PREVENTION (1906)

The first stamps of the Netherlands issued for the purpose of raising funds for charitable purposes appeared at the end of 1906.



The three Netherlands stamps shown above were issued on 21 December 1906 to raise funds for the Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis (Amsterdamsche Vereeniging tot Bestrijding der Tuberculose). They were designed by A.J. Derkinderen (1859-1925)¹ and engraved by H. Raeder; printed by Joh Enschedé of Haarlem on unwatermarked paper using the letterpress process. Perforations : 12½ x 12½.

The stamps sold for double their face value, with the value-added (surtax) amount benefiting the society.

The stamp designs feature the Netherlands coat-of-arms and symbolic representations of the four then contemporary means of fighting Tuberculosis, with them being light, water, air, and food, the name of the beneficiary organisation, the stamp denomination and the month and year of issue.

The stamps were withdrawn on 3 January 1907, and valid for postal use until 31 January 1907. Mint examples and commercially used examples of these stamps are very scarce, the total sales over 42 days of valid use being reported as 400,000 1 cent, 180,000 3 cent and 230,000 5 cent of the approximately 1 million printed of each denomination. The stock remainders were demonetised, favour-cancelled 'AMSTERDAM / 31 JANUARI 1907 / 10-12N' and forwarded to the Stamp Dealer M.Z.Booleman in Amsterdam for selling to philatelists. They are plentiful and have very little value.

¹ Dutch painter, glazier, draftsman, bookbinder and bookplate designer.