

THE GAMES PUBLISHED BY J. Vliegier of Amsterdam

A historic overview of the firm's lithographical prints from around the turn of the 19th/20th century

PART 4

Article by Fred Horn

The next game published by Vliegier was from 1890, but the game itself was first issued in Holland by "Joh. IJkema, 's-Gravenhage" in 1880. The drawings on the gameboard were done by two illustrators: A.J. Elwer and Palmer Cox (Canadian 1840-1924).

After 1900, this KAT EN MUIS game (not as a Vliegier publication) could be found in many (so called) 'Spellen- of Speel-Boeken', game books for children.

N.B. *The research done to get the historical background for the games is limited to my country "The Netherlands." I am well aware that some of the games have a history before they were published in Holland. Back in those days there was a lot of copying and also exchanging of and/or buying and selling of "lithos" by the printing firms.*

—F.H.

The lithographer is unknown but the game was printed by "drukkerij 'Senefelder' Amsterdam." The rules are signed "P. L." which are the initials of P. Louwerse, the one highlighted from the game "SCHOOLMEESTER EN COLLECTANT." (See Part 1 in *AGPI Quarterly* Vol. 6 No. 2, p. 24).



1890
KAT EN MUIS

Two routes of 66 fields in opposite directions. Played with two dice in a Goose-like game



This game was also used in advertising.

The games found (by collectors), are mentioned but there is no certainty at all that this is a complete list of "Vliegier games" used for advertising. Perhaps in the future new items will come to light, but time may be against us for those who hope to find and uncover more.



1890 KAT EN MUIS

This is the same game (as the one shown at left) published as advertising for the same products as before—PURO margarine and ELMA Plantenboter (plant butter)
—Note the missing name of the printer

In Part 2 of this series reviewing the “Vlieger games,” I mentioned the—by “Buijnsters” described—version of the next game with text in ‘book print’:

1890 SINT NICOLAAS SPEL

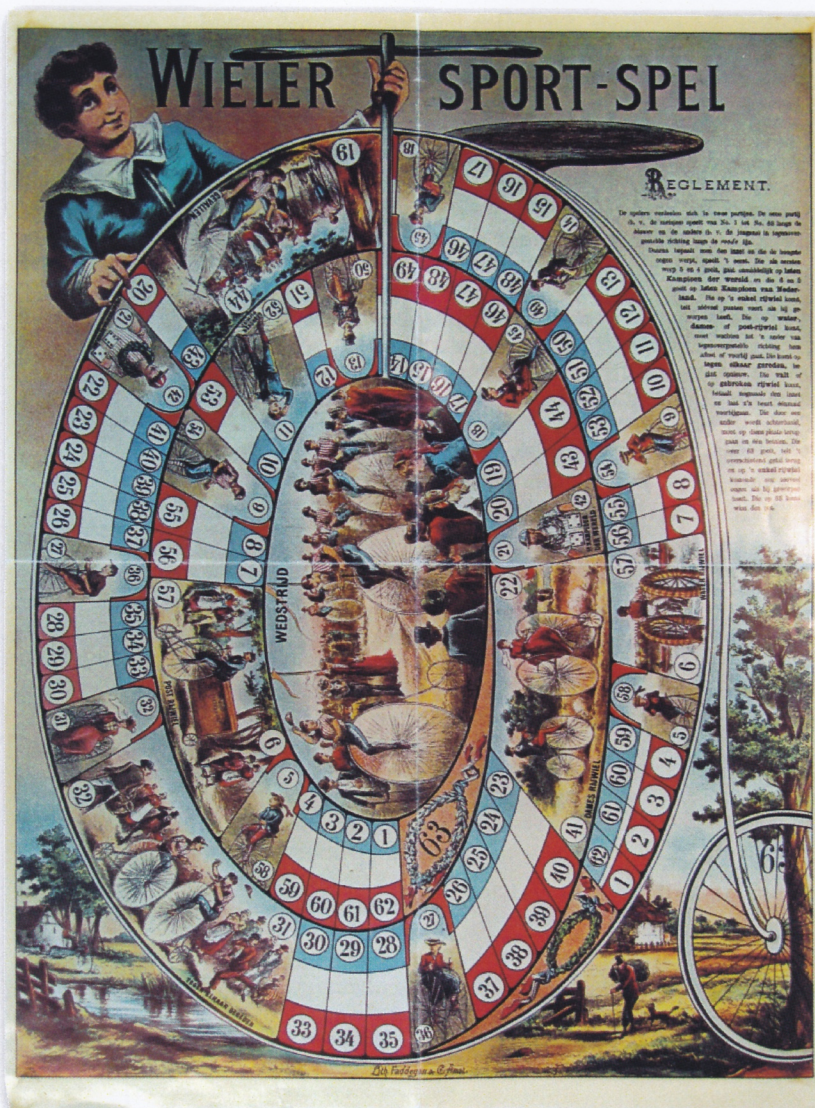
A game comprised of 63 fields and played like a Goose-type game with two dice. A new publication of the game from 1885..

N.B. Because of author’s rights no picture is available.

On November 27, 1891, the following ad was published in a paper announcing the newest “Vlieger game.”



The “litho” is by “Faddegon & Co Amst.” Two versions are known, one with and one without the text: J. Vlieger, Uitgever, Amsterdam.



1891 WIELER SPORT-SPEL

Two routes of 63 fields in opposite directions. Played with two dice in a Goose-like game

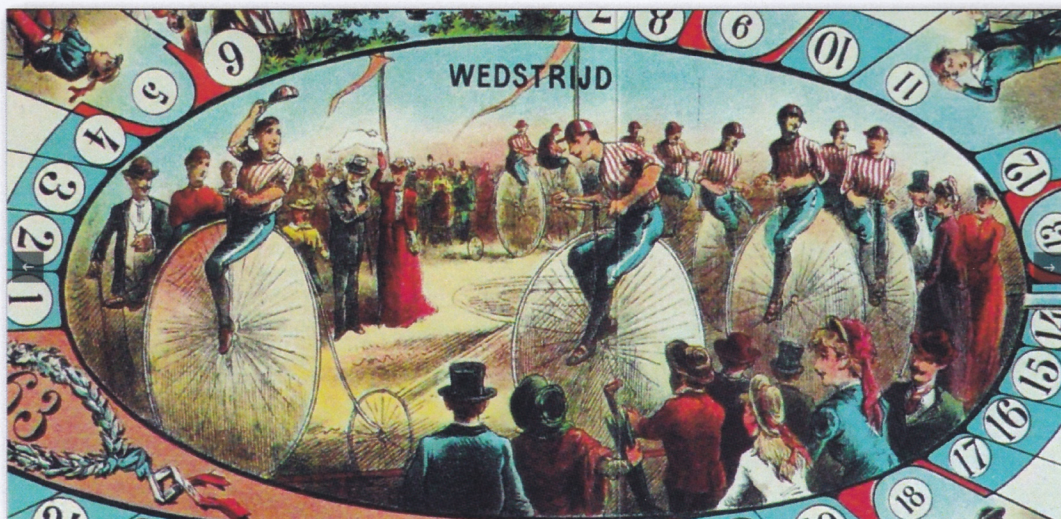
The playing principle is that of the TRAMWAY SPEL and as always the ‘next latest thing’ is pictured.

In 1972 a facsimile of this game was published by “De Lage Landen”:

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The center of the WIELER SPORT-SPEL game board.

The word Wedstrijd translates to “Competition.”



To follow the sequence, the following game is a redesigned older game (see Part 1—*AGPI Quarterly* Vol. 6 No. 2) without a reference to the magazine “*Voor 'T Jonge Volkje*” (For the Young Folks)

1904 SCHOOLMEESTER EN COLLECTANT (Image on page 10)

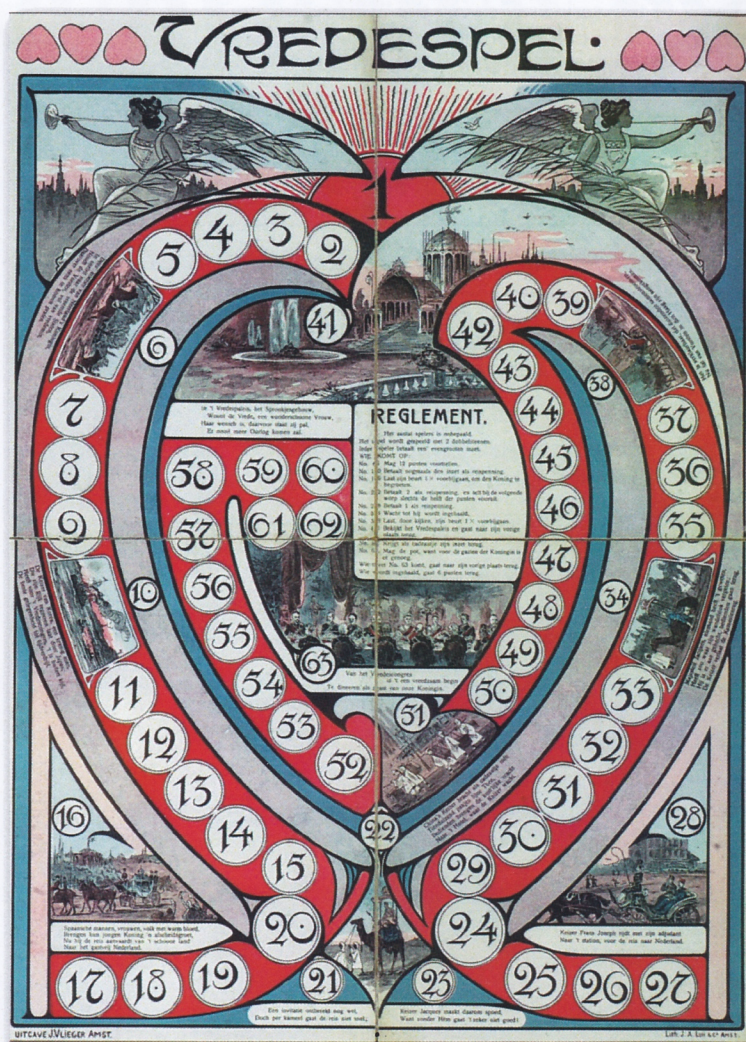
A Goose-like game with 85 fields, played with one die. New publication of the game from 1884.

In 1906 an important event took place in The Hague—the second Peace Conference. This occasion marked the start of the realization of the (now famous) Vredespaleis (Peace Palace) in The Hague. Vlieger used the opportunity to launch his next game: VREDESPEL

The lithography was done this time by “J.A. LUIJ & Co Amst.”

One more game was published and came on the market in 1907, the year in which the Dutch celebrated the 300th birthday of their famous hero and sea-admiral Michiel Adriaanszoon de Ruijter: *DE RUIJTER SPEL*

This time the firm “J.A. LUIJ & Co Amsterdam” was named as ‘drukkerij’ (printer).



1906 VREDESEL Goose-like game with 63 fields, played with two dice



The game was republished by “Moccona” in 1972 as a free gift (when buying their ‘instant coffee’) in a set of four “Oud Hollandsche Familiespellen” (Old Dutch Family Games).

- 1 Dutch Goose Game
- 2 ‘Get Some’ and ‘Give Some’ Game
- 3 Old Flemish Goose Board Game
- 4 Michiel de Ruijter Game



One of four free games with purchase of Moccona coffee



1907 DE RUIJTER SPEL Goose-like game with 63 fields, played with two dice

1908 was the year the founder of the firm Jan Vlieger died, and with him perhaps, that “driving force” which benefited his growing and flourishing firm.



Jan Vlieger (1844-1908)

His sons continued to utilize the various shops but there were no innovative initiatives anymore. So after Vlieger’s death no additional games were published although the firm still continued to sell their games in their shops, up to and after World War II.

In 1938 Mr. Gerrit Vlieger, the last surviving nephew, started working for the company. When in 1950 the Tax office wanted to close everything down, Gerrit paid them off and bought, with help from his mother, the entire firm. After his death most of the property was sold including all of the inventory except a small

amount of material used for painting art. In one building at the Amstel, the firm, to this day, continues to offer these products for sale.

END OF STORY

My own involvement on this topic began in the early 1970s. I worked in an office at the Turfmarkt nearby the outlet of the firm Vlieger based at the corner of Amstel/Halvemaansteeg.

After asking staff members for information about their published games, they directed me to “de ouwe Vlieger” (the old man Vlieger), as I learned to know him, who for sure must have been Mr. Gerrit Vlieger.

He showed me around and told me about the print rolls (with games) still stored somewhere in the attic space of the building. We then climbed the famous iron staircase to this storage area but at first sight we could not find any print rolls with games, which to his memory, were ‘somewhere way in the back.’ Though he promised to search and look for these rolls and to trim off a couple of games for me, that was never realized. When I heard about his death in 1989 his heirs had cleaned the attic and all the ‘worthless’ things had been thrown away including the print rolls with the games. That seemed to put an end to it all, but...this story just has a ‘update’ to it:

A few years later while walking down the Utrechtsestraat I spotted in the window of a small Bric-a-Brac shop, two exposed Vlieger games. After entering the store I asked the lady behind the counter about the games she had displayed in her window.

“Sorry,” she said, “unlucky for you, you’re two months too late!”



Iron staircase to the attic

I, having no idea what she was talking about, looked at her with amazement but she continued her story.

“You know, some years ago late one night, I was passing by Vlieger’s shop in the Halvemaansteeg and there was a container filled with rubbish of things they had thrown away. But I spotted some big rolls with games! That looked promising for my business so I went home to get a pair of scissors and dived into the container to cut off as many games as possible. After some hours of hard work I had collected not only a lot of games but also some more nice things. I stored them in my cellar, but that is why you’re too late, two months ago the river Amstel flowed high and a kind of tsunami swept through my cellar. As a result, all of my stored paper and cardboard merchandise was damaged and I had to throw it away. These two are the only ones left.”

I ended up purchasing both games, adding “HET APENSPEL” and “HET REISSPEL” to my collection. At that point, everything about the story on Vlieger’s games ended there for me.

EXTRA

In the collection of fellow collector Eric van Waarden there exists a Koster game manufactured as the expensive Vlieger game, along with a picture on the outside stating that it was their publication.

Maybe this indicates that Vlieger not only sold its own games but also sold games from other firms and publishers in the same way as they did with their own games.

N.B. This game was also on the exhibition at the Grolier Club as “Game 52.”



I am greatly indebted to the following individuals. Without them this story could have never been told. The late Mr. Gerrit Vlieger; Rob van Linden of the website HONGS; my fellow -collectors Eric van Waarden and Kees Boogaard; Adrian Seville. AGPI