

**NETHERLANDS PHILATELISTS  
of CALIFORNIA  
(now in its 42<sup>nd</sup> year)**

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**Honorary Members:**

John Heimans  
George Vandenberg  
† Ralph Van Heerden  
Website: <http://www.npofc.org>

**July 2011**

**June meeting.** Attending at the home of Arno Kolster were: Franklin Ennik, HansPaul Hager, Arno Kolster, Hans Kremer, Burt Miller, Paul Swierstra, and Fred Van der Heyden.

**NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

The meeting and **annual NPofC summer picnic** has been scheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup> at HansPaul Hager's home in San Jose, CA. Mark your calendars now for this special fun, social event. The event is open to all members and wives.

**AROUND THE TABLE**

**Paul Swierstra** passed around a letter that was charged 13 cent postage due but it should have been 15 cent. Paul has been accumulating a file of articles on the UPU (Universal Postal Union) for the Western Philatelic Library, Sunnyvale, CA. On behalf of the Western Philatelic Library, Paul recently picked up a donation of more than 140 boxes of philatelic literature from a private library in the Los Angeles area.

**Fred Van der Heyden** passed around an impressive selection of vintage occasion and Dutch-themed post cards; shown here is a post card from the selection with a fine example of an August 24, 1907 's Gravenhage long bar, continuous machine cancel sent to Philadelphia, USA. See reverse next page. Fred also passed around a stack of vintage expired pass ports used by a pair of frequent world travellers that contained many examples of fiscal immigration stamps.



The **July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held at the home of Albert Muller in Hayward, CA starting at 1:00pm. Anyone needing driving directions please contact Albert at 510-733-2795.  
The **August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and picnic** will be held at the home of HansPaul Hager in San Jose, CA, starting at 1:00pm. Anyone needing driving directions please contact HansPaul at 408-770-9132.



**Burt Miller** passed around a post card under-franked (with 1 cent) from Lexmond in 1901 to Belgium (should be 3 cent) and charged 6½ cent postage due; a multi-franked cover sent from the Netherlands to Danzig on the July 27, 1932 Zeppelin flight; a cover with a 1941 Amsterdam Zuid cancel, censored in Frankfurt, sent on a Clipper flight from Lisbon to New York, and finally to San Francisco, CA. Burt also demonstrated his hand-held microscope for viewing fine detail on stamps; it is especially handy for looking at plate faults.

**Franklin Ennik** passed around a copy of the illustrated dictionary of philatelic terms, *Filatelie van A tot Z*, by A. Van der Flier, published by Cantecler te DeBilt and Stichting Nederlandsch Maandblad voor Philatelie, Den Haag, 1994, 131 pg., and a 12-stamp block of the new TNT, 2011 series STAD VAN NEDERLAND. Frank also passed around a series of envelopes that were mailed in the Netherlands and addressed with misspellings of the Dutch surname Ennik.

Abie en Jan Ennik  
 Boslaan 31  
 8426 ES Appelscha  
 NO3V 8426ES

Fam. Addink  
 Boslaan 31  
 8426 EG Appelscha

De Weledele Heer Ernink  
 Dotterbloemstraat 51  
ASSEN.

AAN  
 de weledelgeb.heer J.E.Ennik,  
 Bruggelaan 14,  
APPELSCHA.Fr.

**Hans Kremer** showed us two examples of covers illustrating the Dutch Red Cross involvement in the 1912-1913 Balkan War (see article below); a collection of early magazine photos advertising and promoting KLM Airline travel 1930-1939; an early 2½ cent post card with the rail departure cancel (Arnhem-Breda) which is switched with the arrival (Bergen op Zoom) cancel on the franking stamp; and a red, machine slogan cancel of the firm H. Albert de Barg & Co., Postbus no 268, 22½ cent franking on an envelope sent August 29, 1939 to Gastonia, NC with red sealing wax on the reverse. Hans also passed around a 1964 Royal Dutch Navy NATO exercise cover that was franked with an invalid stamp (the clerk then added two postage stamps to make up the 10 cent postage due penalty).

**Arno Kolster** passed around a current issue of the *Stanley Gibbons Stamp Monthly* which had a feature article on the current, ongoing series of Netherlands “singing bird stamps” and a copy of the pamphlet *How to Price Old Postcards*, 5th edition.

**HansPaul Hager** passed around examples of stickers, labels and sluitzegels (etiketten) that were applied to Dutch telegrams and a large collection of bank receipts (kwitanties) that recorded and showed payment of business transactions. Postage stamps were applied to pay postage and delivery of the invoice; revenue stamps indicated payment of the tax on the amount of the transaction.

#### CANCEL OF THE MONTH

The June winner is **Arno Kolster** with an *Amsterdam 3*, 27 March 1914, 6-7N cancel on a 3 cent, 1913 Willem II Jubileum zegel issue (NVPH nr. 91), perforated 11½ x 11. The cancellation is without ‘stars’, but does show substation no. 3.



#### COVER OF THE MONTH

The June winner is **Arno Kolster** with an 1867 folded letter sent from Rotterdam to Belfast, Ireland.

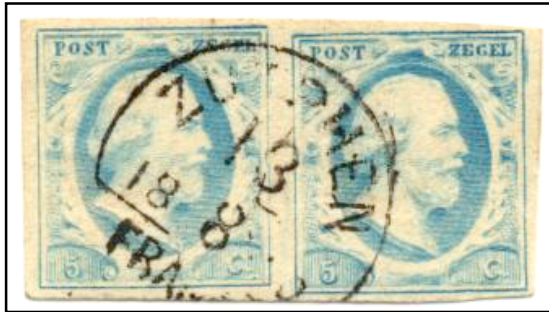


This folded letter was sent from Rotterdam to Belfast on November 23, 1867, arriving Belfast three days later, November 26 1867. A boxed **FRANCO** cancel ties an NVPH nr. 6, 15 cent orange to the cover, the correct postage rate for mail from Holland to Ireland. A red kleinround stempel dispatch cancel shows **ROTTERDAM 23/NOV/67 8A-12M**. The letter arrived in London on November 25, 1867, as shown by the bold red London receiver. It is also back-stamped with a small black, round receiving cancel **BELFAST NO 26/67**.

## OTHER CATEGORY OF THE MONTH

The June winner is **Arno Kolster** with a pair of 1852, 5 cent Willem III, NVPH nr. 1, from plate IV, cancelled in Zutphen.

The unique feature of this pair of No.1 stamps, cut from a print sheet from plate IV, is they show a large vertical shift in the plate die impressions. The printing plates were made of four dies of 25 stamps, each positioned on the press platen. The image shown here is a result of the adjoining dies being slightly misplaced during the manual alignment of making the plate.



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## Dutch Red Cross Ambulances in Greece in 1913

with thanks to Hans Kremer.

The **First Balkan War**, which lasted from October 1912 to May 1913, pitted the Balkan League (Serbia, Greece, Montenegro and Bulgaria) against the Ottoman Empire. The combined armies of the Balkan states overcame the numerically inferior and strategically disadvantaged Ottoman armies and achieved rapid success. As a result of the war, almost all remaining European territories of the Ottoman Empire were captured and partitioned among the allies.



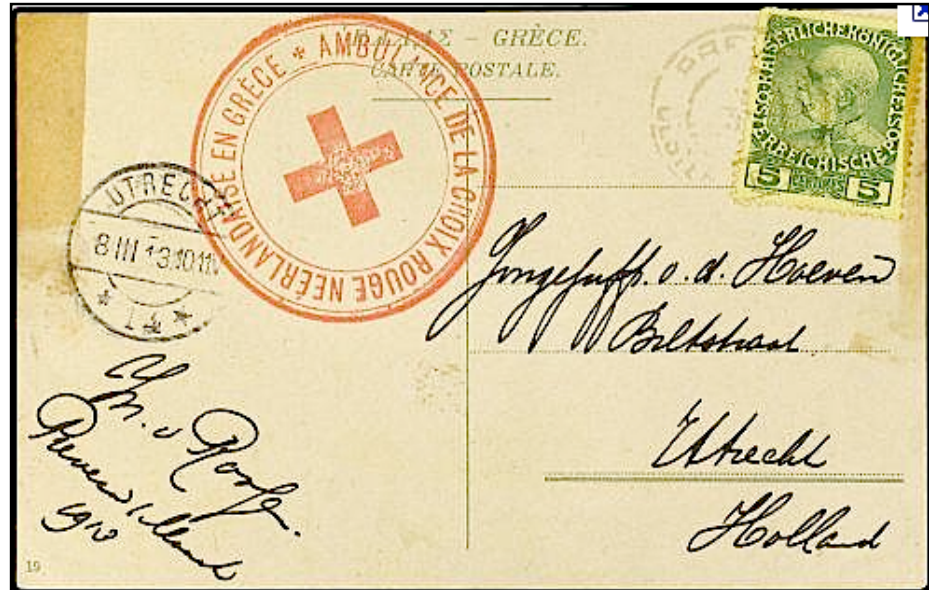
The Dutch Red Cross sent “ambulances” to Greece, Turkey and Bulgaria. An ambulance (think about the definition of ‘ambulant’) would be a group of doctors, nurses, support personnel, and materials. Each “ambulance” unit was completely self-supporting, and could handle about 100 patients.

At first the Dutch had been hesitant to send aid, because they were afraid they might get drawn into the Balkan War themselves. When this was not the case a public appeal was made to donate money to help the war victims. More than 250,000 guilders were collected and part of it was spent on the “ambulances”.

The postcard shown above was most likely (based on the text of the postcard) sent from the Greek town of Janina (Ionnina in Greek). It shows a red slogan cancel **AMBULANCE DE LA CROIX ROUGE NEERLANDAISE EN GRECE**, and was sent in March 1913 to Rotterdam.

The second postcard was sent March 8, 1913 to Utrecht, the Netherlands.

*But what are those Austrian stamps of 5 and 10 centimes (showing Emperor Franz-Joseph) doing on these covers?*



In the 19th and early 20th centuries, the Ottoman Empire was often referred to as *the Sick Man of Europe*. Burdened with a decentralized, corrupt and inefficient theocratic government, the Empire persisted for as long as it did largely because Great Britain, France, Austria-Hungary, Germany and Russia could not agree on how it should be divided up.

By the middle of the 19th century, the Ottomans had to concede extra-territorial rights, *including postal operations* to the great powers, as well as, to some powers not so great. *Austria* (as shown here), Germany, Great Britain, Russia, France, Italy, Romania and Poland maintained offices in, and issued stamps for these offices, in the Ottoman Empire. Austria began to operate post offices in the Ottoman Empire as early as 1845, and in 1913 still operated 30 post offices in what was called the Austrian Levant area. The Janina post office was closed on December 14, 1915.

| Country | Text   | Modern location | Type     | Date opened | Date closed | P.O. | A, V, F | Comments |
|---------|--------|-----------------|----------|-------------|-------------|------|---------|----------|
| Israel  | JAFFA  | Jaffa           | Consular | 1854        | 1914 Sep 30 |      | A, V, F | Jaffa    |
| Greece  | JANINA | Ioannina        | Consular | 1857        | 1914 Dec 15 |      | A, V, F |          |
| Rumania | JASSY  | Rumania         | Consular | 1785-87     | 1869 Mar 31 |      | A, V    |          |

References:

See various Internet websites: first Balkan War.

Bas Plaatsman. *De Nederlandse Rode Kruis ambulance in het Osmaanse Rijk ten tijde van Eerste Balkanoorlog (1912-1913)*. Scriptie, Universiteit Utrecht 2007.

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**VENLOO-MAASTRICHT, an enduring error**

with thanks to Hans Kremer.

In *Filatelie* of April 2010, Alex Nuijten showed a large-round train cancel: Venloo-Maastricht. Indeed Maastricht, and not the correct Maastricht.

One would think that an error of that magnitude would have been noticed right away and would have been corrected quickly. Not so.

If one examines the files that kept track of cancels handed out by the PTT (the so-called 'stempelboeken'), one will find that the first time this incorrect cancel was handed out was on August 6, 1898. As a matter of fact three of these incorrect cancels were handed out that day.



Then, on May 15, 1899 a fourth cancel with this error was delivered.

It was not until June 1901, when a fifth cancel with this error was received, that a postal employee noticed the error and sent it back. Finally in July 1901 the correct Venloo-Maastricht cancel made its

appearance.

Large-round cancels with the incorrect Maastricht spelling are known from December 1898 through August 1910. These large-round train cancels were replaced by the block cancels starting in 1911.

References.

Cees Janssen. *Handboek Nederlandse Poststempels 2*, 2008.

Alex Nuijten. Alex's album, Vier keer fout. *Filatelie* 2010/4, April 2010.

*Auction Sheraton & Peel # 45: Postal History, Stamps, Postmarks, 20-03-2011.*