

**NETHERLANDS PHILATELISTS  
of CALIFORNIA  
(now in its 43<sup>rd</sup> year)**

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**August 2012**

**July meeting.** Attending at the home of Fred Van der Heyden's niece were: Franklin Ennik, HansPaul Hager, Hans Kremer, Burt Miller, Albert Muller, Paul Swierstra and Fred Van der Heyden.

**NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

**Our annual NPofC summer picnic** was held at the home of Fred Van der Heyden's niece, Ralf and Valeska Smets, Saturday, July 21, 2012 in Pleasant Hill, CA. Members and spouses enjoyed a sumptuous, delicious spread of food and pleasant company. We were pleased that Claire Vandenberg could also join us. We are grateful to our hosts, Ralf and Valeska Smets, for allowing us to enjoy their home and joining in the festivities.

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Since no NPofC business was conducted at this festive meeting this Newsletter will only feature several short articles.

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**Free "Change of Address" cards. What was that about?**

*By Hans Kremer*

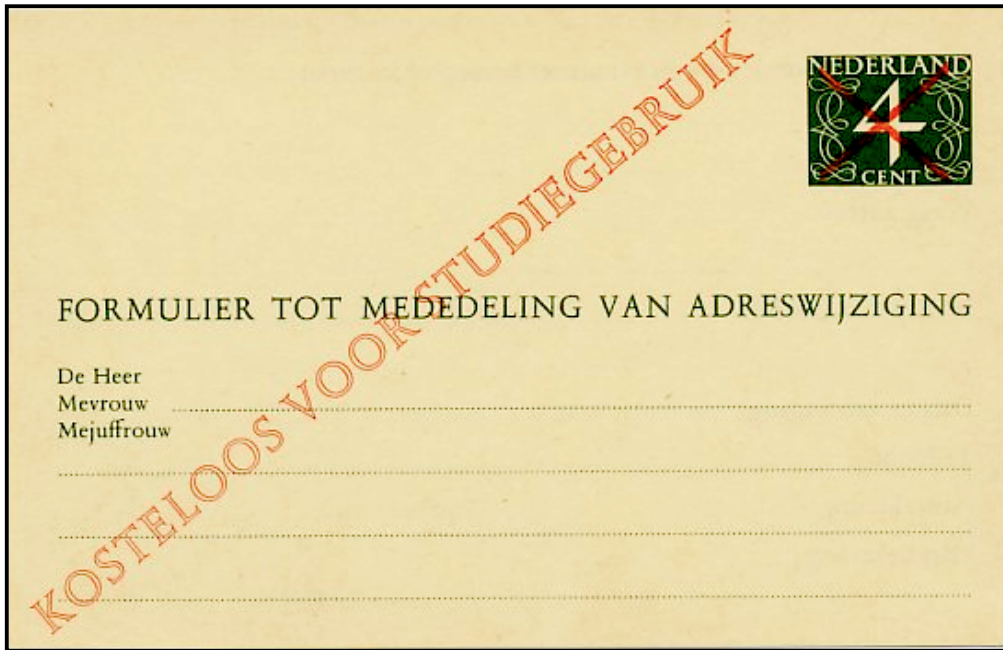
When you consult the Geuzendam postal stationery catalog's latest edition (2008) you'll see on pages 307 and 308 a short note about unusual change of address cards. They are defined as "overpriced souvenirs."

The first one of these special cards is shown here. It is a 1957 4 cent change of address card diagonally overprinted "KOSTELOOS VOOR STUDIEGEBRUIK" with a red cross over the 4 cent denomination. "Kosteloos voor studiegebruik" stands for "Free for study purposes."

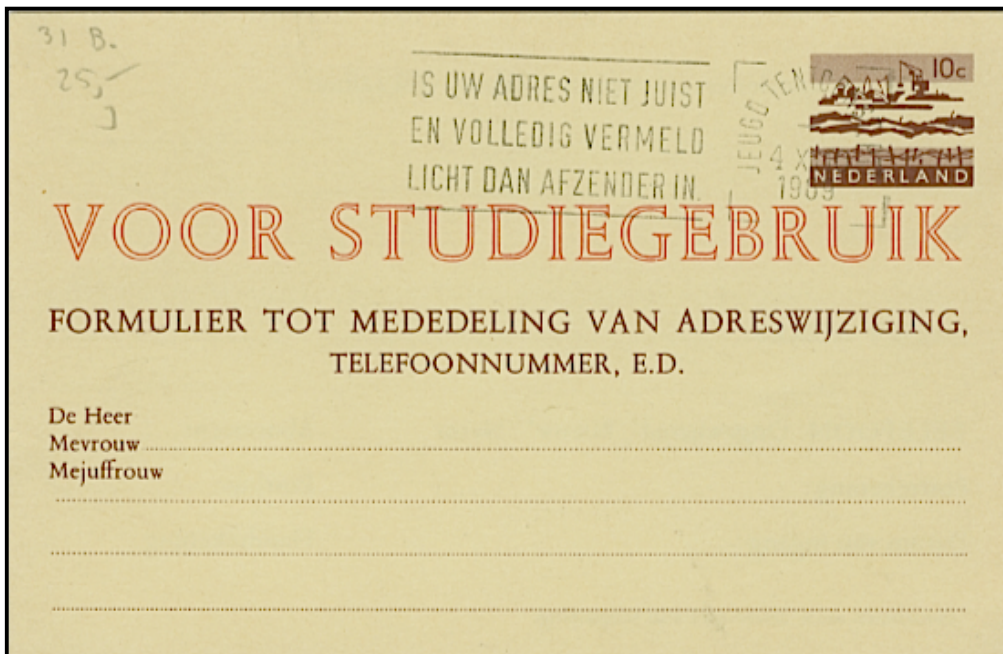
But who was doing this studying?

Over time PTT printed 42,000,000 (!) copies of the regular 4 cent change of address card. This was only one of the many forms and postal products the PTT used. It was important for the PTT that the public knew how to use these products and what better way to teach the populace then starting with school kids?

The **August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held at the Western Philatelic Library, 1500 Partridge Ave., Sunnyvale, CA. Their telephone number is 408-733-0336.  
The **September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held at the home of Burt Miller in Pacifica, CA starting at 1:00pm. Burt's telephone number 650-359-0858.



For this purpose PTT personnel visited public schools and handed out a variety of PTT postal products and forms to the students and subsequently they were shown how to use these. Change of address cards were among these 'forms'. Not to miss any revenue the cards were overprinted making them invalid for actual mailing purposes.

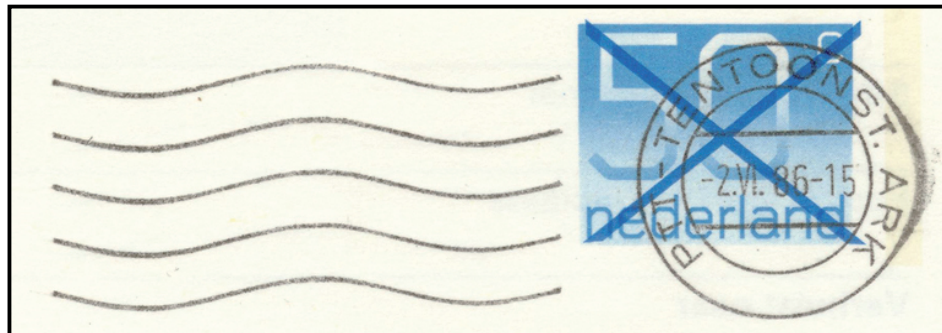


1969 Cancelled (Jeugd Tentoonstelling, PTT) change of address study card.

Although the text was diagonally on the first card, for the others the text ran across the cards horizontally from left to right. Geuzendam lists 16 of these cards, all with same text as mentioned before, with one exception, where it only says "VOOR STUDIEGEBRUIK", instead of "KOSTELOOS VOOR STUDIEGEBRUIK."

As mentioned, PTT personnel visited the schools but in September 1968 a special Ark (think Noah's Ark) was built that contained all the study material and exhibitions. Now the kids went to the PTT instead of the PTT coming to them. The Ark also had a canceling machine, plus a number of hand cancels, making it more interesting for kids.

The cancels used were **JEUGD TENTOONST.PTT (1969 thru 1986)**, and **PTT-TENTOONST.ARK (1986, 1987)**.



The Ark anchored in various towns, among them Arnhem in September and October 1969, Zutphen November 1969, Sneek July 1970, and still in 1973 in Breda. Its 50<sup>th</sup> berthing was in 1981 in Hoogeveen.

These cards were printed in high quantities. Geuzendam mentions 450,000 for one of them and a couple of hundred thousand for others.



*PTT Ark. (Copyright: Museum voor Communicatie).*

References.

*Per email correspondance:* Cees Janssen, Saskia Spiekman, Jan Verhoeven, Jan Vellekoop. *Museum voor Communicatie, The Hague.*

*Geuzendam's Catalogus van de Postwaardestukken van Nederland en Overzeese Rijksdelen.*  
8<sup>th</sup> edition, PO&PO, 2008. 352 pages.

## Research Report from PostNL on removing self-stick adhesive stamps

Following a recent request from a stamp collector of PostNL self-stick adhesive stamps, especially the recent series of Netherlands "green" issues, these stamps were put through a thorough examination. Based on this study it was concluded that there were no defects or inconsistencies found with regard to the material used for the production of these stamps. The test results also revealed what the best method is to loosen PostNL-adhesive stamps from envelopes.

A number of samples of the stamps were tested, under different conditions with respect to the loosening properties, that is to say, with different water temperatures and immersion times. The findings can be summarized as follows:

### Water temperature

Mean immersion time required to cleanly disengage the stamps.

		<u>Notes</u>
Cold	25 minutes	Stamps could easily be detached by hand.
Lukewarm	8 minutes	Stamps could easily be detached by hand.

It should be noted that the stamps do not self-release from the paper substrate, but that they can be easily pulled loose with the hand (or with a pair of stamp tweezers), with very little force. A slight increase in water temperatures compared to "cold" helps the PVA gum layer to quickly break down, but if the temperature is too high the paper/ink may be damaged.

The exact time that the gum layer needs in order to dissolve, and to allow for soaking off is mainly dependent on the variation of the water temperature, although the nature of the substrate on which the stamp is attached and the corresponding physical adhesion properties may also play a role.

### Removal of the ink

The other question from the collector was about the leaching/damage of the printing ink if the stamps are left too long in water. This was also investigated. It is concluded that prolonged immersion in water of the stamps will always eventually lead to breakdown of the connection between ink and paper, and possibly also of the ink structure. This allows the ink to "craze" or loosening off the paper, as is normal for a lot of printing ink. The tests show that this process begins to occur after about 30 minutes in cold water and a little earlier in warmer water.

### Optimal method differed

It is not known how and under what circumstances the collector has tried to loosen his stamps, but based on practical knowledge of inks and paper, and given the results from this study, the following method is recommended for loosening adhesive Post-NL stamps from paper envelopes.

- The stamps must be fully immersed at least 5 minutes but not longer than 30 minutes in lukewarm water (about 18-22° C or 64-72° F). Approximately 5 to 15 minutes seems a good guideline.
- After this time, gently by hand, or in any other suitable manner, the stamps can be pulled loose from the substrate. (**Source: PostNL in: KNBF Nieuwsbrief nr. 020 december 15, 2011**).