

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

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**Correspondence to:**

Franklin Ennik  
3168 Tice Creek Drive # 3, Walnut Creek, CA 94595  
E-mail: [ennik123@att.net](mailto:ennik123@att.net)  
Telephone: 925-952-9424

**Honorary Members:**

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

**September 2012**

**August meeting.** Attending at the Western Philatelic Library, Sunnyvale, CA were: Franklin Ennik, HansPaul Hager, Hans Kremer, Stuart Leven, Burt Miller, Paul Swierstra and Fred Van der Heyden.

**NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

**Kudos and congratulations** to our members **Saburo Masuyama** and **Kees Adema** who presented exhibits at the International Philatelic Exhibition in Jakarta, 18-24 June 2012. Saburo received a Vermeil and Silver respectively for his *Netherlands Indies Postal History 1939-1942* exhibit and his *Japanese Occupation of Java 1942-1945* exhibit.

Having previously received 3 large gold medals at FIP International Exhibits, Kees had qualified to participate in the Indonesia 2012 World Championship competition, one of 11 exhibits worldwide, with his exhibit entitled, *Netherlands Mail in Times of Turmoil*. All 11 participants received a large gold medal award. Although Kees finished out of the money --- that is, in the top three --- Kees said it was a great honor to have qualified and participated.

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We would also like to draw attention to and acknowledge the study and research of our member **Hans Kremer** for his many philatelic contributions in netherlandic philatelic journals and websites, specifically *Po&Po*, *The Netherlands Philatelist*, *Onder de Loop*, *postzegelblog.nl*, *KNBF Nieuwsbrief* and the *Windmill Herald*.

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**AROUND THE TABLE**

**Stuart Leven** summarized his attendance at the International Philatelic Exhibition in Jakarta, June 18-24, 2012. There were lots of dealers' booths selling Indonesian hand crafts and products but relatively few stamp dealers. There were many outstanding philatelic exhibits displaying a wide variety of subjects. Stuart was successful in acquiring at the show a long series of DEI covers and cards with *bestelhuis* (delivery house) cancels but he saw none of the elusive DEI LUX soap post cards that features the 1930s-1940s movie starlets.

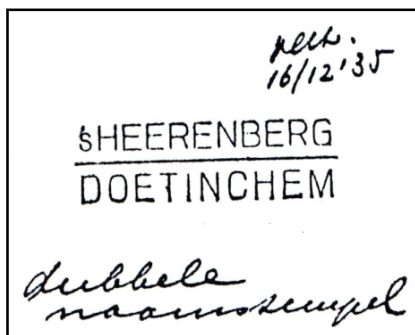
The **September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held at the home of Burt Miller in Pacifica, CA starting at 1:00pm. Burt's telephone number (650) 359-0858.  
The **October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held at the home of Stuart Leven in San Jose, CA starting at 1:00pm. Stuart's telephone number: (408) 978-0193.

Shown here is one of the postal cards posted February 2, 1946 during the Indonesian revolution from rebel held territory and delivered in Dutch held territory without being censored or confiscated. This card was mailed from bestelhuis **DOEKOEHDOENGOES** via supervising post office in **KOETOARDJO** to **DJAKARTA**.



Fred Van der Heyden passed around a long series of vintage product advertising cards, ca 1880; an unused Amsterdam to Schiphol airport train ticket; a series of vintage post cards illustrating the Vleeschhal in Haarlem, a Dutch soldier during WW I, postal envelopes from British Barbados and Shanghai; a July 30, 2012 article from the *Wall Street Journal* about the decline of US citizens who are renouncing their citizenship status; and a vintage copy of *Ten Brink's ReisAtlas*.

Hans Kremer showed us an example of a free-post military air mail letter-sheet (*postblad*) used by Dutch troops in Dutch East Indies after WW II and a series of mourning covers franked with the various postal denominations starting in 1998-2000. The special *rouwzegels* (mourning stamps) applied to these letters are valued only at the domestic (within country) rate.



Hans also passed around a money order receipt with a special double-name cancel that was used at sub-post offices (*hulppostkantoren*). Sub-post offices were allowed to sell money orders starting March 1929, and the last known use of these cancels was in September 1967. This example shows sub-office 'sHEERENBERG and its main office DOETINCHEM.





**Franklin Ennik** passed around a retail installment contract with State of Florida revenue stamps attached; a 5 cent postal card overprinted 12½ cent (series 1926) with a curious "*Hollandia*" 93 marker and mailed to Hungary; and a windowed commercial envelope franked 12 cent with a red 1954 *Francotyp* cancel sent locally to Rotterdam but with 18 cent postage added. Frank also showed a post-free, Ex P.O.W. letter cancelled and sent from **PTT Batavia Centrum (AMACAB)**, Java on or about March 10, 1946. When the letter arrived in Hilversum, Netherlands on March 26, 1946, the recipient, Mevrouw Jacobs—van de Wall Bake, had apparently been transferred to the *Friesch Tuberculosis Sanatorium* health resort in Appelscha (Friesland). Forwarding the letter required a 30 cent postage due surcharge.



In April 1944, the Netherlands Indies Civil Administration (NICA) was formed with the task of restoring the civil administration and law of Dutch colonial rule after the capitulation of

Japanese occupation forces. In January 1946 the agency name was changed to the Allied Military Administration---Civil Affairs Branch or **AMACAB**.

**HansPaul Hager** passed around a cash book maintained by the owner of a dry goods textile store, ca mid-1930s. Daily transactions were hand recorded in the cash book and sales notations of more than 5 gulden usually received an appropriate amount of *value-added fiscal stamps* which were attached to the cash book to record/verify the transactions. HansPaul also passed around a 10 gram sample package of *Van Nelle Mild© tobacco* with fiscal stamps applied. After reading the relatively new book *The Island at the Center of the World, 2004* by Russell Shorto, HansPaul made arrangements with the New York State archives to examine the fiscal markings on some of the archival documents cited in the book. This book describes the early beginnings of New Netherlands (now New York and surrounding area) under the administration of the Dutch West Indies Company from 1624 until 1664.



**Paul Swierstra** related to us that one of the premier San Francisco Bay area stamp clubs, *Sequoia Stamp Club* in Redwood City, CA will be 65 years old on Tuesday, September 25, 2012. The Club had its early beginnings in Sequoia High School but was formally established in 1947. Members enjoy a well-rounded philatelic program including guest speakers, member presentations, swap meets and live auctions and enjoyable social events. The club also sponsors the annual Stamp Show PENPEX in December.

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***Lettre Témoin..... Proof of Flight Letters***

by Hans Kremer

I had never heard of this (French) term but I read about it in the late Jan Hintzen’s publication (see References). French was the official *Universal Postal Union* language.

The dictionary defines the French word “témoin” as “witness”, “evidence”, and “proof”.

In the earlier days of airmail the Dutch PTT paid the KLM certain sums of money to have letters transported by plane. In turn the PTT would receive the income generated from selling airmail stamps.

It is understandable that the PTT would like to verify that claims made by KLM about the speed with which the mail was moved were indeed true. The way to do this would be to send letters via airmail and addressed to themselves, roundtrip. These letters were thus to ‘prove’ (témoin) that KLM’s claims were not exaggerated.

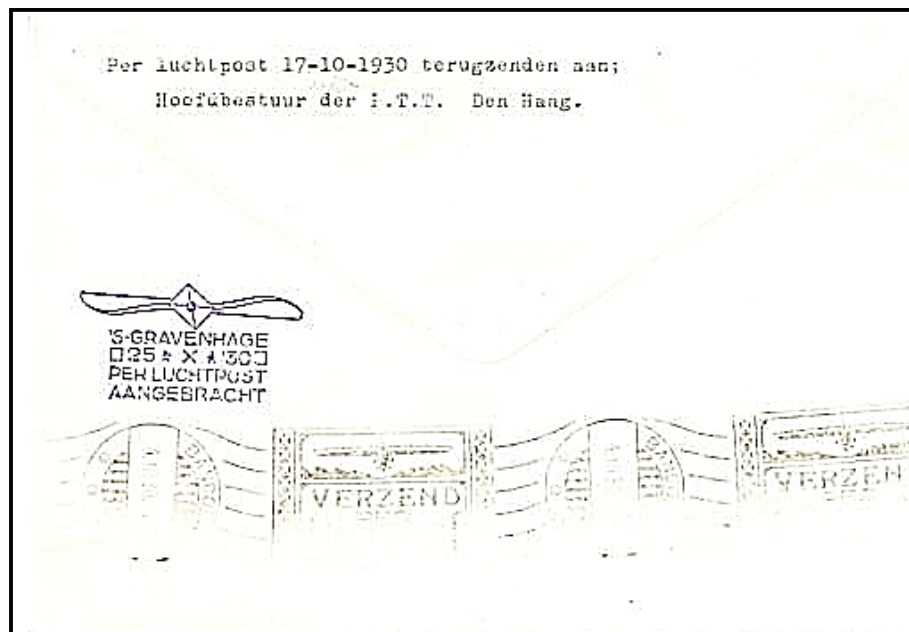
With a bit of effort with Google I did manage to make a screen dump of such a cover, offered on eBay, which sold for 125 Euros. The cover image is not the best of quality but it’ll do I believe. The letter shown is sent from PTT headquarters in The Hague (‘s-Gravenhage) on September 24, 1930 to PTT headquarters in Bandoeng, Java, with a request (refer to the back of the cover) for it to be returned on October 17, 1930 and that’s what happened.





A bit of background about this flight.

This was the first flight of the regularly “every 14 days to the D.E.I” schedule. The **PH-AGR (Reiger =heron)** left Amsterdam on September 25, 1930 and flew via Budapest, Istanbul, Aleppo, Baghdad, Bushire, Karachi, Allahabad, Calcutta, Akyab, Bangkok, Medan, Palembang, Batavia to Bandoeng, arriving there on October 4, 1930, leaving Bandoeng for the return trip on October 17, landing in Amsterdam on October 25, exactly one month after its original departure.



You might also have noticed the propeller cancel on the back of the cover. These cancels were used from mid-1928 thru March 1930 and then just once more for this flight. Propeller cancels were applied to confirm that indeed this letter was transported by plane.

The letter rate to the Dutch East Indies was 6 cent basic rate, plus 75 cent for weight between 5 and 20 grams. The return letter rate from the D.E.I was 12 ½ cent plus 75 airmail surcharge.



References:

Jan Hintzen, *Luchtpost een boeiende geschiedenis*, , *Nederlandse Vereniging van Aerophilatelisten*, page 250. 2007.

J.L.C.M. TSchroots, H.H.C. TSchroots, *Luchtvaart en Luchtpost encyclopedie deel 1, De Vliegende Hollander*, 1990.

Notations in various Dutch newspapers of September and October 1930.

