

NETHERLANDS PHILATELISTS of CALIFORNIA (now in its 43rd year)

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December 2012

November meeting. Attending at the home of Hans Kremer were: Dennis Buss, Franklin Ennik, HansPaul Hager, Arno Kolster, Hans Kremer, Stuart Leven, Burt Miller, Albert Muller, Paul Swierstra and Fred Van der Heyden.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Annual holiday dinner. Mark your calendars now for our annual holiday dinner/soirée to be held at **Uncle Yu's Restaurant, 2005 Crow Canyon Place, Suite 160, San Ramon, CA 94583** on **Saturday January 5, 2013** starting at 5pm. Their telephone number: 925-275-1818. Wives and significant others are welcome.

Netherlands PostNL postal rates increase as of January 1, 2013. The base rate for letters within the Netherlands will increase four cent for a total of 54 cent. Letters to European destinations will be 90 cent, an increase of five cent. The seasonal December stamp will increase to 40 cent. Small increases are also scheduled for other classes of mail. According to PostNL the rate changes are necessary because of a steady decline in the postal market revenues. These adjustments for consumer prices fall within the statutory limits on tariff development and are reviewed by the regulator OPTA (Onafhankelijke Post en Telecommunicatie Autoriteit). Despite these new rate changes, they remain the lowest postal rates in Europe. (Source: PostNL in: *KNBF Nieuwsbrief* nr. 030 Jaargang 3, 15 oktober 2012).

	Nederland	Europa	Wereld
0-20 gram:	 € 0,54	 € 0,90	 € 0,95
20-50 gram:	 € 1,08	 € 0,90 + € 0,90	 € 0,95 + € 0,95

The basic postal rates for foreign mail sent outside of EU Europe will remain the same at 95 cent euro.

The **December 15th meeting** will be held at the home of Franklin Ennik in Walnut Creek, CA starting at 1:00pm. Frank's phone number is (925)-952-9424.
The **January 19th meeting** will be held at the Western Philatelic Library, 1500 Partridge Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94087 starting at 1:00pm. The WPL telephone: (408)-733-0336.

Comparable rates (in euro) with the Netherlands for the first two weight classes of first class mail in the US shows that despite the ever-increasing mail costs, the US public still pays less than the Dutch public.

AROUND THE TABLE

Fred Van der Heyden showed us a series of vintage, turn-of-the-century seasonal occasional post cards, particularly Thanksgiving cards and a long series of 1899 photographs showing street scenes of Petaluma, California.

Hans Kremer provided an article with additional clarification on the transfer of mail during the 1936 Zeppelin flight over Venlo, referring to the letter showed by Burt Miller at the October meeting. Bags of mail destined for Venlo and elsewhere and carried by the airship were lowered by ropes from the airship and new mail is taken up into the airship by the same manner. Hans also showed a cancel and related article about the last round-table conference in The Hage regarding granting Independence to the Island Archipelago of Indonesia and another article from the *KNBF Nieuwsbrief* nr. 031 Jaargang 3, 15 november 2012 describing a possible new collecting venue: Dutch-themed subject matter that appears on foreign postage stamps like, for example, this Putten Memorial stamp issued by the DDR in 1965. Hans also passed around a facsimile 1st Day cover “franked” with faux “15 and 25 guilder” airmail issues.



Paul Swierstra passed around a series of vintage Dutch post cards illustrating the diverse examples of traditional costumes (*klederdrachten*) found in the province of Zeeland. The costumes vary according to the persons age, marriage status, widowed, various Islands and cities, etc. Paul also passed around a post card photograph showing the Utrecht post office/train station where he worked during his younger years.

Dennis Buss discussed the judging comments on his one-page exhibit, entitled *The Netherlands Numeral Stamps: A Study in Creative Stamp Design*, entry in the recent WINEPEX Stamp Show and Exhibit for which he received a Silver award. Dennis' interest focuses upon the design aspects of the Netherlands numeral stamps and the Van Krimpen issues in use during WW II. Dennis also passed around the book by David H.T. Scott, *European Stamp Design: A Symiotic Approach to Designing Messages*. Academy Editions, 1995, 143 pg.

HansPaul Hager passed around an article from the 1956 newspaper, *de Posthoorn*, entitled *Hoogspanning bij de PTT* (=High voltage at the PTT); a copy of the magazine, *De Prins*, from 1926 showing a picture of Princess Juliana at age 18 years; an article on the opening of new tram-line service in various Dutch cities; vintage postcard photographs of early Dutch postal uniforms; vintage postcard photographs of early flights to the Dutch East Indies; examples of WW II loans to Dutch citizens in need of food and clothes; a copy of the faked 15 gulden overprint on a WW II stamp that recently appeared for sale on Ebay auction; and lastly, a 1941 cover censored by the Germans, sent to Dutch East Indies, censored again by the DEI and then re-addressed to British India.

Franklin Ennik passed around an illustrated post card posted 20 November 1934 advertising through a clearing house the availability of potatoes to a client in Caracas, Venezuela; a WW II

chemically censored (with three stripes) letter sent 12 November 1943 from Utrecht to a presumed Netherlands Legion soldier stationed in Lande in Oldenburg, Germany.

Frank also passed around a chemically censored cover sent from Jubbega, Friesland (postmarked Heerenveen 27 June 1944) to Apolda, (Thuringen), Germany.

The letter is addressed to a worker at the Friedrig Ludwig Steam Dairy. By the script of the writer, it is presumed that a young person is writing to a conscripted Dutch citizen sent to work in Germany during WW II.

The Apolda, Germany region is known for several distinctions:



Since the mid 1700s it is prominent for the production of fine knitted fabrics; in about 1890, the dog breeder Karl Friedrich Louis Doberman developed the dog breed now known as Doberman Pinschers; tasty Thuringer sausage; and bell foundries.

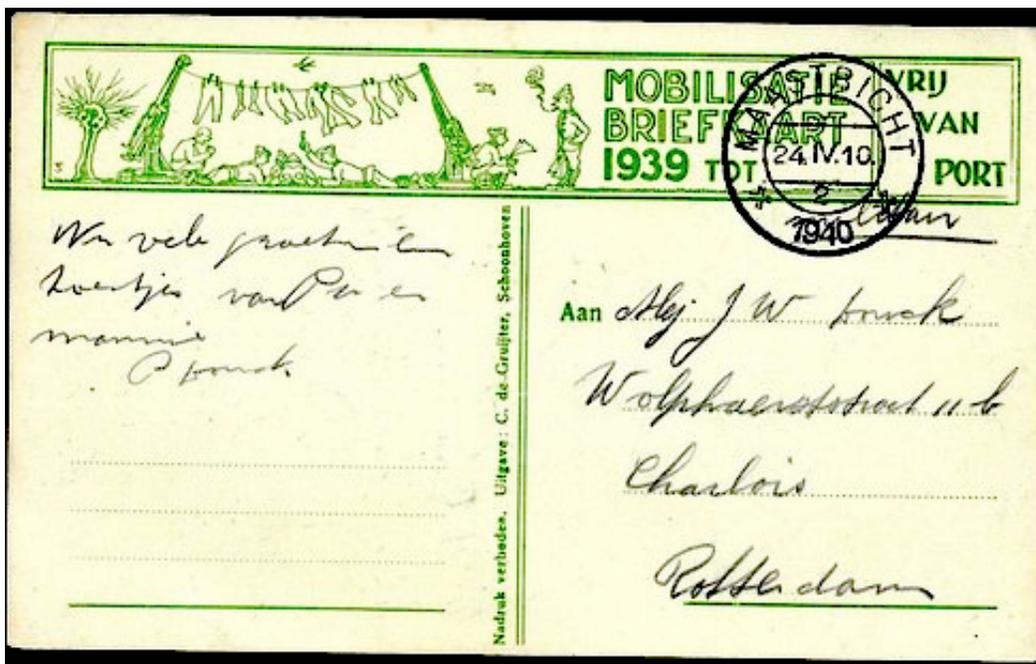
Source of information:
Wikipedia with the search words: Apolda, Thuringen, Germany.

Arno Kolster passed around an article summarizing the financial plight of the USPS with its \$16 million loss of revenues; a small book recently self-published by Hans Caarls entitled *De Kleuren van de 1^e Emissie 1852* (=The colors of the First Issue 1852), Blaricum. 2012. This text shows all the various color print varieties of the first 3 postage stamps issued by the Netherlands. Arno also showed us a cover sent from Breukelen to Arnhem, franked with 10 cent and cancelled 17 June 1862 on the NR Spoorweg.

Mobilization postcards (1939-1940)

By Hans Kremer

I make frequent visits to Ebay to see if there are any interesting items related to Dutch postal history. Once in a while I come across something that I have not seen before and about which I don't know anything. Such was the case with the postal card shown here. The description was "1940 Mobilisatie PC Maastricht". This cover was offered by Inverstamps (an Ebay auction house located in Amsterdam) for \$60.



Since this is a postal card the first thing to do would be to grab a copy of 'Geuzendam' to see what it says about these cards. No such luck, they are not found there.

As is often the case in philately it is more important who you know than what you know, so I decided to contact one of the editors of the latest version of Geuzendam, Boudewijn Hellebrekers.

Boudewijn pointed out that Geuzendam only covers what are called 'postwaardestukken', (postal stationery), but with emphasis on the word 'waarde'. The Federation Internationale Philatelique (F.I.P.) has the following definition of postal stationery:

Postal stationery comprises postal matter which either bears an officially authorized pre-printed stamp or device or inscription indicating that a specific rate of postage or related service has been prepaid.

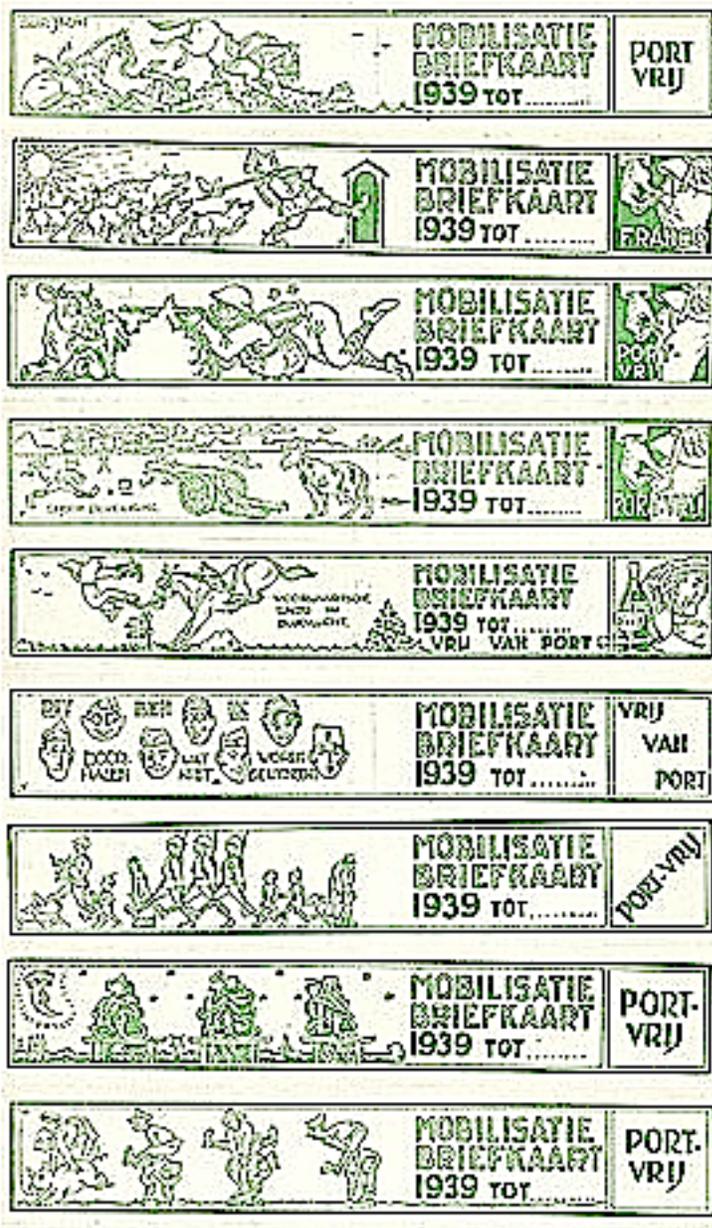
When I read "or inscription indicating that a specific rate of postage or related service has been prepaid." I thought that this postal card would have qualified, since it says: *Vrij van Port* (No franking required)but then Boudewijn pointed out a note on page 227 of Geuzendam. It says that

Militair Portvrij (please note the hand scripted "militair" under the Maastricht cancel) points to the fact that the sender did not have to pay for mailing the card; he only had to pay for the card

itself. So, no 'specific rate of postage or related service has been prepaid', ergo no 'postwaardestuk' and no mention in Geuzendam.

Nevertheless it is an interesting item with a reference to "Mobilisatie 1939 tot" (Mobilization 1939 till).

With war becoming more and more a possibility in August 1939 the Dutch government ordered all military personnel of the 1924-1939 drafts to report for duty. This involved 250,000 people and caused major inconveniences to many households. To support the troops various initiatives were taken; Printer/publisher C. de Gruyter in Schoonhoven supplied postal cards that could be sent postage free.



How many cards were issued or how many designs there were I have not been able to find out, but on Ebay nine different designs are shown, which with the card shown above makes at least ten.

Refs:
Geuzendam's Catalogus van de Postwaardestukken van Nederland en Overzeese Rijksdelen, PO&PO, 8th edition, 2008.

http://www.postalstationery.org/html/stationery_is.html

The Military Airmail Letter-sheets of the Dutch East Indies.

by Hans Kremer

After the Second World War there were about 130,000 Dutch troops in the Dutch East Indies, sent there to restore order.

To control the amount of mail these soldiers could send, airmail envelopes and later folded airmail letter-sheets were issued that could be sent home for free. Initially, the number of letters/sheets that could be sent monthly was limited to 20, but soon, due to many complaints this limit was lifted. These airmail letter-sheets (officially first issued on November 1, 1947) cost the sender 2½ cents (this was at cost price) but they still could be sent for free.

Mailing costs were retroactively paid for (at bulk rate to the PTT) by the Ministry of War. The maximum allowed weight of this type of folded letter-sheet was 5 grams and free postage applied only within the Dutch East Indies, to the Netherlands and to the Dutch territories in the West Indies. If the weight was over five grams, for example, due to the enclosure of pictures or extra sheets of paper, additional payment had to be made and it was transported by surface mail. If the destination was not to the areas mentioned before, extra postage was also due. The amount of surcharge was calculated from Amsterdam. Besides these folded letter-sheets up to 5 grams, the military had postage free privileges for letters up to 20 gram but this mail was always transported by surface mail.

The folded letter shown here (sent in 1948 from Batavia to Vreeswijk in the Netherlands) is a G(euzendam) 5b type, first issued in December 1947 with a printer's mark of "Nix w.o. 5064" on the lower right back of the letter-sheet, canceled with a short-bar Veldpost-Batavia 3 cancel.

Refs: *Geuzendam's Catalogus van de Postwaardestukken van Nederland en Overzeese Rijksdelen*, 8th edition, PO&PO, 2008.

<http://www.postblad.nl/>

