

**NETHERLANDS PHILATELISTS
of CALIFORNIA**
(now in its 44th year)

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June 2013

May meeting. Attending at the home of John and Eve Heimans were: Franklin Ennik, HansPaul Hager, Hans Kremer, Stuart Leven and Fred Van der Heyden.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

The purpose of this meeting was to examine the collection of John Heimans' Netherlands and former territories stamp collection and library and prepare it for its most appropriate disposal through donation and stamp auction.

A Cancel of Dieren, May 12, 1897, on a ½ cent cijfer

Dieren was a town located on the banks of the IJssel River between Zutphen and Arnhem in the province of Gelderland. In 1818 it was merged with the municipality of Rheden. Dieren has been the playground of Dutch Royalty since the reign of Dutch Stadtholder Frederik Hendrik of Orange (1584-1647). Besides chocolate, the popular bicycle, *Gazelle*, is manufactured in Dieren. The Veluwezoom National Park is located nearby and is a popular tourist destination with its many opportunities for outdoor activities. The stamp shown is the 1894, ½ cent cijfer and is cancelled with a small round May 12, 1897. This cijfer issue was used primarily to pay for the delivery of newspapers and printed matter.





A Cancel of Maashees, August 21 1887, on a 5 cent Willem III.

Maashees was once a small village located on the banks of the Maas River near the town of Boxmeer in the province of North Brabant. It, along with the village of Overloon, existed until 1942 when they were merged with the village of Vierlingsbeek. It is a rural area characterized by agriculture, horticulture, farm animals and camping. The 5 cent Willem III is cancelled with a small round August 21, 1887.

The **June 15th meeting** will be held at the home of Arno Kolster starting at 1:00pm. Arno's telephone number 415-348-1271.
The **July 20th meeting** will be held at the home of Hans Kremer starting at 1:00pm. Hans' telephone number 925- 820-5841.

German Red "C in Circle" Censor Mark; 1940

By Hans Kremer

The cover shown here was sent via surface mail, paid for with the correct 12½ cent postage, on November 2, 1940 from Alphen aan de Rijn in the Netherlands to Wauregan in Connecticut, USA. The cover contained a letter from a Dutch stamp collector thanking his U.S contact for sending him the latest U.S stamps. He was surprised, that in spite of the German censorship, he had received the enclosed stamps.



The front of the cover shows at the lower left a handwritten censor mark "2583/1," as well as, a red circular mark C, with a diameter of 15 mm.

When I'm looking for information about German WWII censor marks I consult "Die Zensur von Zivilpost in Deutschland im 2. Weltkrieg" by Horst Landsmann (2008). This publication contains detailed information about the German censor marks used on civilian mail during WWII.

On page 72 of Mr. Landsmann's publication for the Berlin ABP (*Auslandsbriefprüfstellen* = foreign letter censorship stations), under the heading of "Prüfervermerke" (generic term used for unidentified censors of an ABP), it shows the "C in circle" mark (Landsmann Type BK1.1). The text reads: *15 mm diameter; blue, lilared, red, violet, or black. Used between September 1940 and January 1941. It is a common censor mark; an estimated value of covers with this marker is \$3 to \$4.*



Usually, during the early part of WW II, Dutch letters destined for the US would be censored in Cologne, but since there was reason to believe that this letter might contain stamps it fell under a special category and these letters had to be censored in Berlin.

On the back of the cover are two more censor marks, the first one (in black) reads "Geprüft / Oberkommando der Wehrmacht" (Landsmann type BV2.2). It was a sticker used to close the letter after it had been read (Geprüft) by a censor. The second one is a rather vague red hand cancel, most likely with the text "Oberkommando der Wehrmacht" along the top and "Briefstempel" along the bottom (Landsmann BP2.2).



Landsmann BP 2.2



You might also have noticed the red letters "AF" on front of the cover. These are so-called Transorma codes. The **Transorma** was the first large-scale multi-position mail sorting machine, built by the Dutch. The name is an acronym for "**TRAN**sport and **SORT**ing, **M**archand and **A**ndriessen", with **M** and **A** derived from the last names of the inventors.



Transorma machines presented letters one at a time to up to five operators who read the address, selected and typed in a numerical routing code, and then sent it off to be automatically sorted into one of up to 300 chutes. The operators were called *Transormistes* (most were female), and each operator had her own key, with in this case is the two-letter (AF) identifier. The letters "AF" (alphabetically between AA and BL) point to a Transorma machine located at the Utrecht

Railway post office. From this we can conclude that the letter went from Alphen a/d Rijn to the Utrecht railway post office and from there on to Berlin.

AA/BL	Utrecht	1938
AY	Utrecht	1962?
BM/CQ	Haarlem	1938
BD/BK	Rotterdam	1956
BS	Rotterdam	1956
BX/BZ	Rotterdam	1956
CD	's-Gravenhage	1970
CL/CM	Rotterdam	1956
CY/CZ	Haarlem	1950
CX/JL	Rotterdam	1940
HC	's-Gravenhage	
HF/HL	's-Gravenhage	
JA/JU	's-Hertogenbosch	1950
KA/KK	Utrecht	1947
LA/LN	Breda	1951
LA/LQ	's-Gravenhage	1957
LM	Rotterdam	1948
MA/MF	Haarlem	1951
MD/MK	Rotterdam	1956
NA/NZ	Rotterdam	1951
PA/PT	Rotterdam	1961
PU/QZ	's-Gravenhage	1963
SA/TZ	's-Gravenhage	1952
TA/TZ	's-Gravenhage	1964
UA/UZ	's-Gravenhage	1952
UA/UZ	's-Gravenhage	1965
VA/ZZ	's-Gravenhage	1953
VA/VZ	's-Gravenhage	1965
WA/WZ	's-Gravenhage	1965

In "Overzicht crisismaatregelen" appendix nr. 2 van Juli 1941" it says: 'Correspondence for North-Central-, and South America as well as for Eastern Asia will go via Lisbon'.

Thus, the letter was sent first to the ABP Berlin office where it was censured. From there it went by train to Lisbon and further per ship to the U.S.

Since there are no arrival marks we don't know if the letter made it across the Atlantic and how long it took to complete the journey.

In 1957 the USPS installed one of the large scale Transorma semi-automatic sorters. Other worldwide installations included Europe, South America, Canada and the United Kingdom.

List of Transorma key codes used in the various offices.

References:

Horst Landsmann, *Die Zensur von Zivilpost in Deutschland im 2. Weltkrieg*, Books on Demand GmbH, Januar 2008, 452 seite.

J. Dekker, *De Transorma*, *Philatelie*, maart 1976, bldz. 148-154.

J.A.C. van Rijswijk, *Handboek Transorma Codeerplaatstekens*, Privaat Publicatie, december 1982.

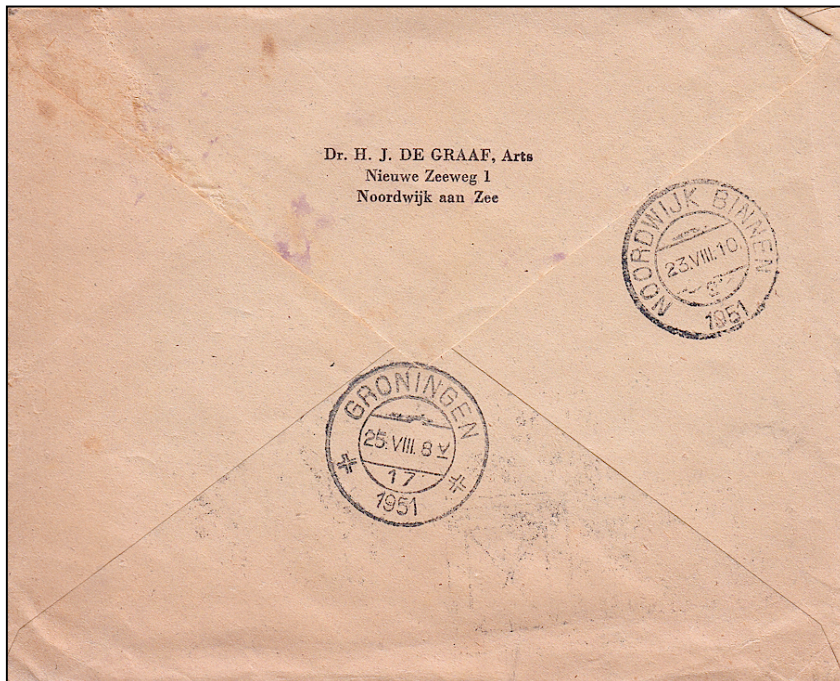
M.J. Vrijaldenhoven-Oostra, *The Transorma Letter Sorting Machine, 1931-1981*, Postal Mechanization Study Group, 1990.

Why 4 cent postage due, when the minimum postage due was 5 cent? By Hans Kremer

The cover shown was sent in August 1951 from Noordwijk aan Zee (refer to the address on the back) to Noordwijk.

Noordwijk is a town and municipality in the west of the Netherlands, in the province of South Holland. The municipality of Noordwijk consists of the communities of Noordwijk aan Zee and Noordwijk-Binnen, separated by a narrow green belt.

Zeeër or Binder. There have always been notable differences between coastal Noordwijk aan Zee and inland Noordwijk-Binnen. In days gone by this was due to religious and occupational differences, which were



easily maintained due to the geographical differences. Noordwijk aan Zee inhabitants were by origin fishermen, with a Protestant background. The primary occupation within Noordwijk-Binnen was bulb cultivation, with Roman Catholicism being the predominant faith. During the 80 Years' War (1568-1648) some of the "Geuzen" (= Protestant rebels) were from Protestant Noordwijk aan Zee. This area suffered under the Spaniards, whilst Catholic Noordwijk-Binnen

area was spared.

Out of curiosity I looked at a map of Noordwijk on GoogleMaps and the first thing I noticed is that the address of the sender of the letter, a physician with a private practice, is listed as “**Nieuwe Zeeweg 1, Noordwijk aan Zee.**” However, the map shows that to be clearly in Noordwijk-Binnen, not in Noordwijk aan Zee. Maybe Noordwijk aan Zee was the more prestigious address, possibly of importance to a physician with a private practice. The cancellation on the front of the cover (although hard to see shows also Noordwijk-Binnen. The address of the intended recipient (H(uis ter) Duinstraat 40 is located in Noordwijk aan Zee.

The addresses are not more than a mile apart and in the same town (Noordwijk), and as such did qualify for the special discounted “local” postage rate. For letters this local rate had been 6 cent since November 1, 1946. It was increased to 7½ cent on July 1, 1953, and done away with on April 1, 1957.

According to a handwritten note on the cover the house on the H. Duinstraat in Noordwijk was unoccupied (= *perceel onbewoond*), but a forwarding address (in the town of Groningen) was found. Groningen is quite a distance from Noordwijk and the local rate did not qualify. The domestic rate for a regular letter was 10 cent in 1951, four cent more than the local rate. Forwarded mail was subject to postage due.

In 1951 postage due was usually twice the missing amount, with a minimum of 5 cent. In the case here the postage due would be the higher of two times the missing amount ($2 \times 4 = 8$ cent) and five cent.

One would expect then that postage due on this letter would have been eight cent.

Why then the four cent postage due? It turns out that forwarded mail was an exception to the two times the missing amount postage due rule and that only one time the short amount would be charged.

This then explains the “4 cent” postage due stamp. The four cent postage due stamp was added in Noordwijk after the letter could not be delivered in Noordwijk. Once the letter arrived in Groningen the new address was either unoccupied (= *perceel ledig*) or it was refused (I’m not quite clear on this) and the PTT had to ‘eat’ the four cent as indicated by the rectangular “NIETIG / Afgeschreven te Groningen” cancel over the postage due stamp.