

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

Correspondence to:

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

Honorary Members:

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

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July meeting. Attending at the home of Claire Vandenberg were: Franklin Ennik, HansPaul Hager, Hans Kremer, Paul Swierstra, Fred Van der Heyden and host Claire Vandenberg.

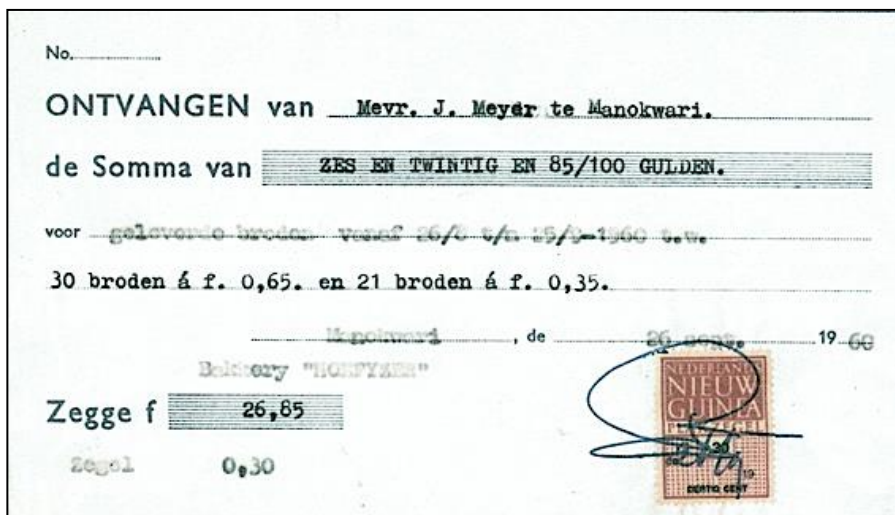
OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

We discussed the status of the philatelic estate and remaining philatelic material of the late George Vandenberg.

Fred Van der Heyden reminded us that the annual NPofC Summer picnic meeting will be supplied and funded by him and his niece Valeska. The event will take place August 17th in Pleasant Hill starting at 1:00. For directions call Valeska Smets at 510-289-6810.

Netherlands New Guinea 30 cent Plakzegel Revenue Receipt

by Ed Burfine



Netherlands New Guinea plakzegel receipts tend to be rare and only occasionally appear in auctions. Most of the Dutch inhabitants of Netherlands New Guinea either left for other more suitable places or were repatriated within a few weeks of the beginning of the UNTEA mission. Before

they left, and in order to save space to pack and transport more important items, they destroyed "old papers" such as revenue receipts.

The **August 17th meeting and picnic** will be held at the home of Ralf and Valeska Smets starting at 1:00pm. The Smets' telephone number 510-289-6810.
The **September 21st meeting** will be held at the home of Hans Kremer starting at 1:00pm. Hans' telephone number is 925-820-5841.

In addition, in many Dutch colonies it was the practice to only keep paperwork as long as needed for tax purposes. When that period expired everything was destroyed by burning. This discouraged any damage from termites, silverfish or tropical rust.

It is amazing that so much administrative effort went into collecting such a small amount of money, f 0.30 cent, in taxes as shown in this receipt dated September 26, 1960. The Hoefijzer Bakery delivered 30 loaves of bread at f 0.65 cent each and 21 loaves of bread at f 0.35 cent each for a total price of f 26.85. The loaves were delivered between August 26, 1960 and September 25, 1960 to a Mrs. J. Meyer in Manokwari. The revenue tax was f 0.30 cent as seen on the receipt and on the affixed plakzegel. The total amount paid was f 27.15 including the tax.

The name of the bakery as shown on the receipt is Bakkery "HOEFYZER" which most likely was intentionally misspelled as it is easier to type one character "Y" than two "ij" or "Bakkerij Hoefijzer."

1779/1780 Letters Sent from the Netherlands United Provinces to Aalst in Austrian Netherlands, now Belgium.
By Hans Kremer and Franklin Ennik

The Italian family of **de Tour et Tassis** (later Germanized to Thurn & Taxis) established Europe's most widespread postal system beginning in the late 1400s. Eventually this network of post offices extended from the Baltic Sea region through Western Europe to Italy.

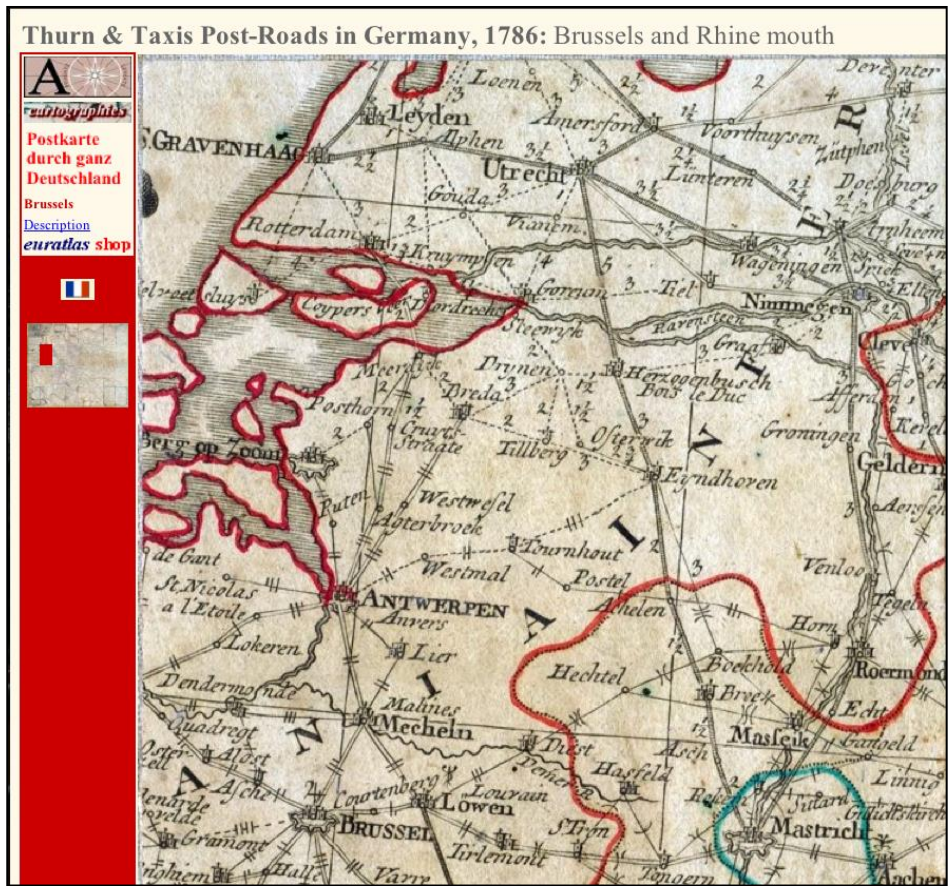


Figure 1. 1786 map of Thurn & Taxis mail routes. Aalst (=Alost in French) is located on this map WNW of Brussels.

Thurn & Taxis contracted with European royalty to carry official mail. Eventually ordinary citizens also could use the extensive Thurn & Taxis postal network, although sending or receiving letters was expensive. Remarkably, this private postal system lasted three and a half centuries, until 1867 when Prussia nationalized the remaining Thurn & Taxis network. Source: Janet Klug, *Guide to Stamp Collecting*, Harper-Collins, 2008. 160 pages.

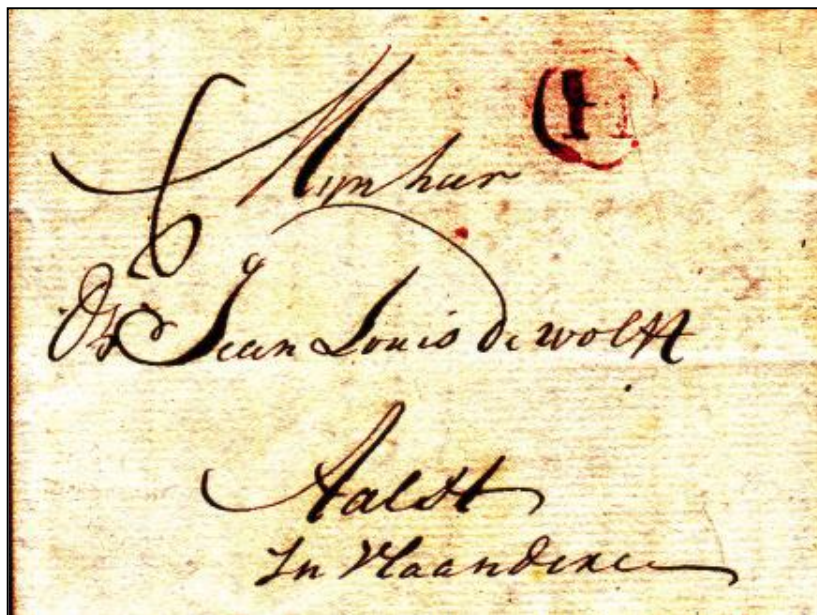
From James Van der Linden, "Anvers dans le réseau international des Postes de la Tour et Tassis 1541-1789," Pandora, 1993, Anvers, pages 98/100, we find:

Anvers etait le bureau d'échange entre les postes des Provinces-Unies et les Tour et Tassis depuis 1650. Les marques "H" et "HOLLANDE" étaient utilisées uniquement pour le courrier destiné aux bureaux des Tour et Tassis dans le Pays-Bas autrichiens. Cependant vers 1769 les correspondance pour les villes en deça de Paris passerent Anvers et furent frappées de la marque "H" tandis que la griffe "HOLLANDE" est connues sur 2 letters 1752/53 pour Nancy.

Hans Kremer provides this translation:

Antwerp was the office of exchange of the mail between the United Provinces and Thurn and Taxis routes since 1650. Cancels "H" and "HOLLANDE" were used only for mail of Thurn and Taxis in the Austrian Netherlands. However, since 1769, correspondence to cities on the route to Paris and going through Antwerp used cancel "H" while the cancel "HOLLANDE" is known for two letters from 1752/53 to Nancy.

The transit "H-in-circle" cancel was, since 1761, used at the border crossing from the northern Netherlands United Provinces to Austrian Netherlands (currently Belgium), in this case in Antwerp. The H indicated that the letter originated from Holland(e). After the French occupation in 1794 they took over the H cancel and used it further until 1808.



The first two issued versions of the "H-in-circle" marker had defective rings and the H in these examples was slightly off center. These manufacturing errors were corrected in 1780 with a new marker issued with centered H and a more perfect circle. See Berger 2010, Jacobi 1998, and Van der Linden 1993 for additional examples.

Figure 2. Letter sent in 1779 from Dordrecht, Netherlands to Aalst, Austrian Netherlands. Notice defective cancel.





Figure 3. Letter sent from Amsterdam to Aalst, Austrian Netherlands in 1780. Notice perfect "H-in-circle" and alternate spelling of Aalst.

For most of the Belgian offices the postage was 6 Brabantse Sols. (Note the script "6" on the two examples shown). This goes for Brussels, Gent, as well as for Aalst. For a letter to Antwerp it was only 4 Brabantse Sols. A few offices further away from the Dutch border required higher postage than the 6 Sols. (One Brabantse Sol = one Brabantse stuiver; however, 7 Brabantse Sols = 6 United Provinces stuivers).

There exists a collection of 53 postage lists ~ one for every Belgian Office ~ where we can see the postage from Holland. The lists have been published in the Belgian Postal History publication.

The letters shown here are addressed to Jean Louis de Wolf, a well-known supplier of hops and grains for the manufacture of beer. He and his firm in Aalst had a reputation for providing quality products to their western European customers. Through his heirs the company (later known as **Mouterij De Wolf-Cosijns**) continued to serve the European beer manufacturing industry until 2002 when the firm closed its doors.

The writer of the 1779 letter, Mr. Dirk Vos Cz. in Dordrecht, talks about previous letters received and some difficulties with shipping delays. Dirk Vos also talks about the shipment of several barrels of fish and a quantity of hops.

Acknowledgement: We thank Jan E. Ennik, formerly Director of the Drenthe Provincial Archive in Assen, for his assistance in translating the 1779 letter.

References:

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