

**NETHERLANDS PHILATELISTS  
of CALIFORNIA  
(now in its 45<sup>th</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>

**April 2014**

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

NEW/ OLD BUSINESS

**WESTPEX 2014.** Mark your calendars now for the 54th Annual Stamp Show to be held at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel, 1800 Old Bayshore Hwy, Burlingame, CA., April 25-27, 2014. NPofC has reserved a meeting room for the event on Friday, April 25th from 12:00 to 2:00pm and the meeting is open to all members and the public. The meeting room location will be in the **Newport Beach Room**. See the official program guide for complete details.

**LITERATURE FOR SALE.** Member **Kees Adema** is disposing of his personal library which contains many vintage reference texts and includes Dutch philatelic subjects, French/Napoleonic subjects and Dutch History & related subjects. The title listings can be viewed on the website [www.npofc.org](http://www.npofc.org). Inquiries can be made directly to Kees Adema.

**We thank the staff** at the Sandoval Retirement facility and member Albert Muller for the delicious luncheon that we enjoyed prior to our March 15th meeting.

AROUND THE TABLE

**Stuart Leven** passed around a strip of pre-WW II, Straights Settlement stamps PERFINed with SMN. The Netherlands Steam Ship Line, (*N V Stoomvaart Maatschappij Nederland*), or SMN maintained a fortnightly passenger, mail and freight service between Europe and the Dutch East Indies area. The company also had offices in other ports in British India and Singapore. These King George stamps were used on their outgoing mail in Singapore but were PERFINed with SMN. After Indonesia gained their independence in 1949, SMN freight and passenger service to the area diminished, resulting in merger with other shipping lines. Stuart also showed us a vintage, German card with the greeting, "*Herzlichen Glückwunsch,*" which means Hearty Congratulations.

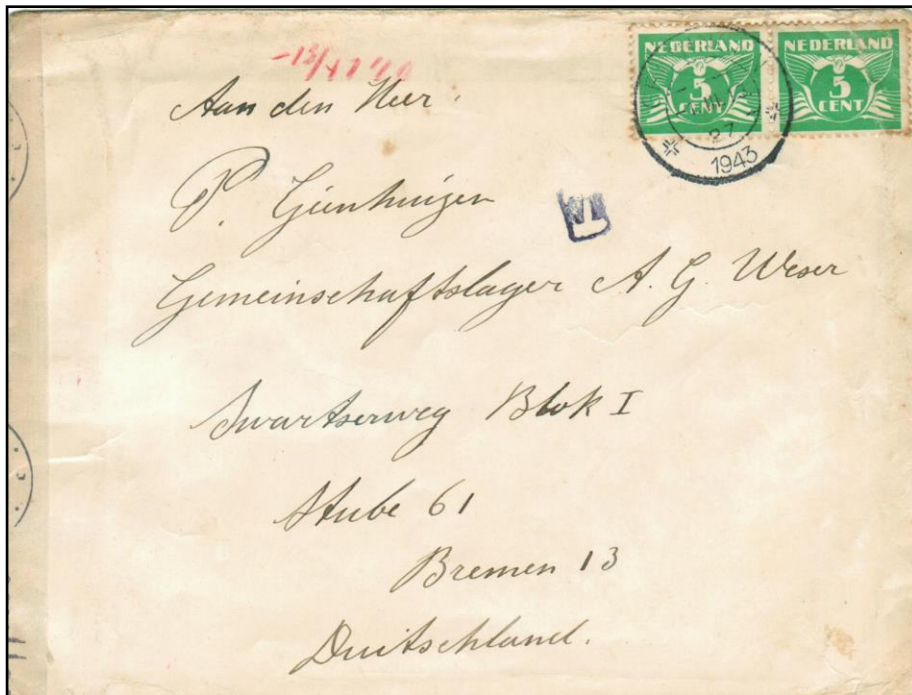
The **April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held at the WESTPEX Stamp Show from 12:00 to 2:00pm. **Note that this meeting date is on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> in the Newport Beach Room.** All members and the public are invited.

The **May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting** will be held at the home of Hans Kremer starting at 1:00pm. Hans' telephone number is (925) 820-5841.

Franklin Ennik passed around an early, post-WW II customer service reply cover post-dated July 20, 1953 used to send stamps bought through subscription from the Philatelic Service of the PTT. This cover has the marker, **Algemene vergunning van de Nederlandsche Bank NV te Amsterdam nr. 9908195 dd 31 december 1949**, which grants permission to the PTT to send stamps from the mint out of the country. For a period after the War, the Dutch government imposed restrictions on sending items of value out of the country, such as money and stamps. Note that at this time this service was carried out from the PTT offices in 's-Gravenhage; and was later transferred to Groningen.

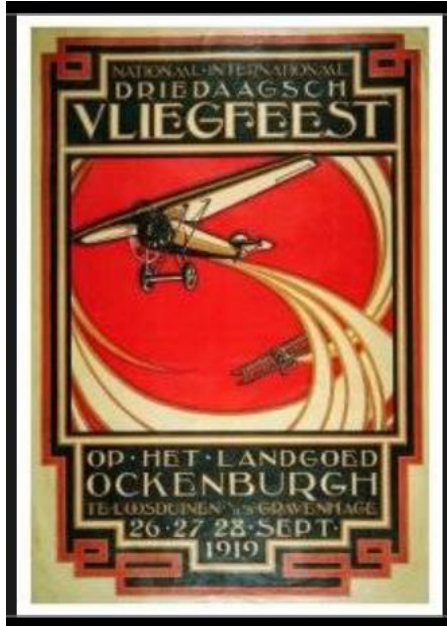


Franklin also passed around a chemically censored (on the reverse side) cover, cancelled March 1, 1943, sent from Groningen to A.G. (Aktien-Gesellschaft) "Weser," one of the major German ship-building companies, and a large complex located on the Weser River in Bremen, Germany.



Started in 1843, the company constructed all manner of ocean-going shipping and over the years became a leader in marine engineering. During WW II this complex was put to work constructing a major part of Germany's war related shipping, including submarines and battle ships. The labor for this complex, as well as all other military complexes, was provided by thousands of forced labor battalions made

up from concentration camp inmates, POWs and conscripts from Germany and the occupied countries. German military facilities over the whole of occupied Europe were built and then maintained by these forced labor battalions. The recipient of this letter, P. Gunhuizer, was one of many Dutchmen who were unwillingly rounded up and shipped off to work in the labor camps.



**Dennis Buss** passed around three Netherlands stamps designed by Pieter A.H. Hofman and gave us a summary of his work and life. P.A.H. Hofman (1886-1965) offers an interesting case study on how an artist and stamp designer changes his approach to design. Hofman established a reputation as an outstanding glass artist, painter, and graphic designer. His work, up until the mid-1920s, was influenced by the Art Nouveau movement. Several of his posters and book covers from this period are characterized by the use of sweeping and curving lines that suggest waves or vines consistent with the organic-nature motif that dominates the Art Nouveau style. Later in the 1930s, he took a more functional approach to his art that reflected the influence of the new Art Deco movement. At this time, he continued to use sweeping lines but now in a more geometric and angular fashion. This approach was consistent with the streamlining effect created by graphic artists to represent the new machine age.

Hofman was responsible for designing three notable postage stamps for the Netherlands PTT. These stamps represent excellent examples of how Hofman's artistic style changed. His first two stamps from 1924 were dedicated to the centenary of the Royal Dutch Lifeboat Society (*Nederlandsche Reddingsmaatschappij*). The "Lifeboat" stamps exemplify the Art Nouveau approach with their highly stylized and sweeping arabesque lines. They are similar to his posters from this period. The 2-cent value is notable also because it omitted the "Nederland" designation from the stamp.



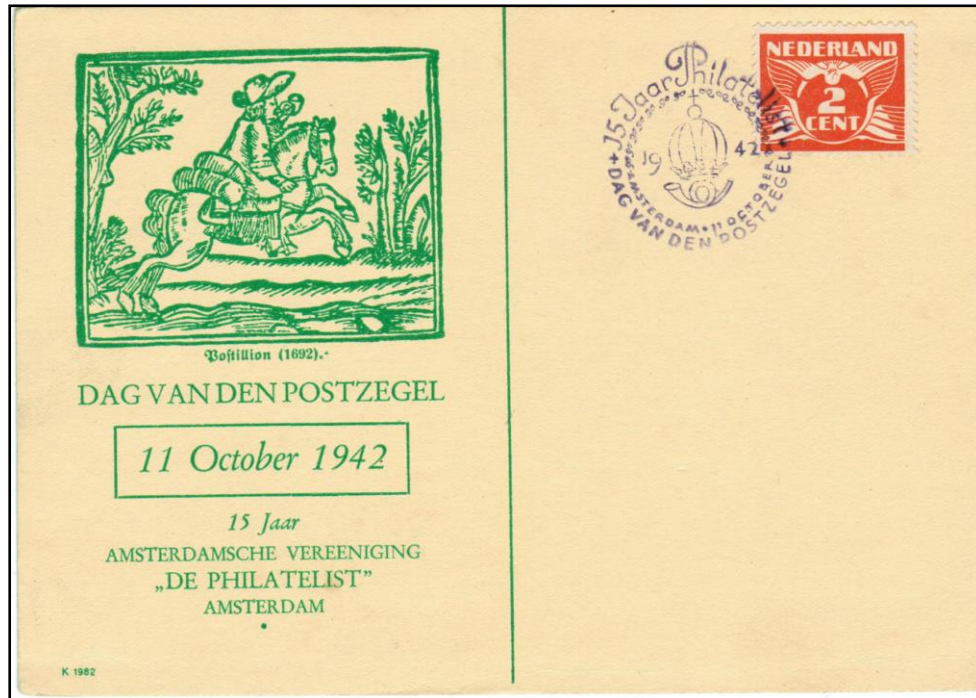
In 1931 the PTT announced a contest for the design of a Dutch peace stamp. Hofman's design was chosen and the stamp was issued in 1933 to honor a League of Nations disarmament conference in Geneva. This stamp represents a remarkable departure from the style he used in his 1924 stamps. It is a simplified design that depicts a peace dove hovering over the sword of war. A six-pointed star is in the background. The stamp is distinguished by its modernity with the use of angular lines, geometric balance and integrated lettering. If the stamp were issued today, it probably would receive little comment because of its contemporary look. David Scott had Hofman in mind as well as other outstanding Dutch stamp designers when he asserted, "for a brief period in the 1930s, the Netherlands produced stamps that were fifty years ahead of those of the rest of the world." (DB).



References:

[http://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pieter\\_A.H.\\_Hofman](http://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pieter_A.H._Hofman)  
 Kremer, Hans. The Peace Issue of 1933, In: *25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Yearbook, 1969-1994*. Netherlands Philatelists of California, 1994, pp. 62-65.  
 Scott, David. *European Stamp Design*. London: Academy Editions, 1995.

**Hans Kremer** passed around a copy of the philatelic journal, *Postal History Journal* no. 157, February 2014 with a summary article, Transatlantic Airmail Services 1928-1945, Catapult, Zeppelin, and British Airways, Part 2 by David Crotty. Hans also showed us a selection of early FDC, (not made to order or official) that were constructed by individuals, and franked with sets of charity stamps; a series of various covers that required postage due stamps; and several examples of *Dag van den Postzegel* post cards sent out during WW II by the Amsterdam and Breda Stamp Clubs. Note that as a paper-use control measure during the war years, the occupying Germans required that all print jobs must have a K number (see lower left corner of card =K 1982) that was assigned to each separate printing firm.



**Paul Swierstra** described his new study regarding the transition of tram/train cancels from small round, large round to block cancels. There are many varieties and overlapping dates to consider in the mix. Paul also pointed out that there was an evolution of the style and size of Post Boxes that were attached to the last car of tram and rail passenger cars.

**Fred Van der Heyden** showed us a selection of vintage post cards and photographic pictures from his collection, including US post cards, a Belgian Kleptjes Kaart and Netherlands occasion cards.

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### The 1923 imperforate Wilhelmina 5 and 10 cent issues

*By Franklin Ennik*

In the postal history of Netherlands stamps there have been several “issues” of imperforate stamps: two legitimate and one not valid. The first was the 1852 NVPH nr. 1-3 issues and like all first issues of the period produced by the worlds fledging postal authorities, these stamps had to be cut from the print sheets with scissors.

In 1898 Princess Wilhelmina reached the legal age of 18 and was inaugurated Queen of the Netherlands on September 6, 1898.

The Dutch Postal Authority =PT (Post & Telegraph) had embarked on an ambitious plan to issue a total of 24 guilder denominated stamps showing the new Queen's image (3 cent to 10 guilders) to commemorate her inauguration. They wanted them all finished and



available in post offices by the inauguration date. But that was not to be..... The second legitimate imperforate issue occurred unintentionally in 1923.

In the early days, there were endless production problems at Enschedé & Sons Printers in Haarlem involving the printing machines, material shortages, ill-defined ink and paper quality and standards, disagreements amongst staff designers, etc., all resulting in production delays and a very mixed quality of the printed products.

For example, notice the line spacing surrounding the image of the Queen on these stamps (see illustration). Initial production runs of the grey 10 cent stamp proved to be too blotchy due to closeness of the background lines. The printing dies were retooled by removing every other line, thus producing a much sharper illustration.

Nearly half of the planned denominations of this issue would not be completed until 20 years later. That said, the engraved, multicolored, 1898-1921 *bontkraag* (fur collar) issues would be one of the more attractive and desirable issues produced by the Enschedé & Sons Printers.

The several years immediately following the end of WW I had been economically prosperous years. One of the consequences was that the work week in the Netherlands was reduced from 48 to 45 hours. But during 1921-1922 the economic tide suddenly changed in Europe, resulting in massive inflation, followed by deflation. This caused wages to fluctuate. All across Europe labor unrest was rampant; and if it wasn't the coal miners, it was the textile workers, building industry, diamond cutters, etc. etc. Strikes by workers and lockouts by employers reached a peak in the Netherlands during 1922-1924.

At the same time, the collective bargaining agreement of the *Socialistische Algemeene Nederlandsche Typografenbond* or Netherlands Typographers (printers) Union (ANTB) expired December 31, 1922. The Union and management had already been in negotiations for some months. Management offered 6% less pay and an increased work week back to 48 hours. The Union responded promptly by going on strike January 2<sup>nd</sup>. This occurred over the entire country.

Worker response to the strike call was mixed.... some went out on strike, others continued to work, resulting in skirmishes between workers.

This was also the situation at Enschedé & Sons Printers in Haarlem. Management, as well as some other large printing firms, decided to close their printing plants on January 4, 1923, thereby locking out the workers. The next day the Enschedé Warehouse Comptroller, J.C. Pull, went to the PT main office in The Hague and declared that the supply of 5 and 10 cent stamps in the outlying post offices would soon run out (**causing delivery of mail to stop !!**) as a result of the strike and **“we just cannot allow this to happen !!”** The Hague replied “.... *not to worry, ... combinations of other stamp denominations would fill the gap.*”

Undeterred, the Comptroller returned to Enschedé Printing and instead decided to supply outlying post offices with sheets of imperforate 5 and 10 cent stamps, since plenty were in stock. The Hague couldn't understand what the problem was.... and concluded that the Comptroller simply wanted to send a message to the Printers Union that striking was not an appropriate option because in this case they worked for the Dutch Government and the Queen. With the help of mediators, agreement was quickly reached between Management and strikers and on Monday January 8<sup>th</sup> the work resumed. This strike was resolved so quickly that it hardly gets a mention in the labor unrest statistics of the 1920s. When the Dutch government finally appointed strike mediators, strike activity over the whole country dramatically dropped off. Ultimately, there was no real shortage of perforated 5 and 10 cent stamps.

Stamp collectors, however, were quite pleased with the result: here we have an extra, unique philatelic item of “low mintage” issued .... 328,695 of the imperforate 5 cent (NVPH nr. 82, Scott no. 111) were sold and 362,246 of the imperforate 10 cent (NVPH nr. 83, Scott no.112) .... making two rather common items “worth” more in their collections. In addition, the sale of these two issues netted the PT an extra, estimated 37,500 Gulden (after expenses). By comparison, 1,886,749,600 and 374,553,500 respectively of the perforated 5 and 10 cent stamps were sold. The imperforate stamps were used on money order forms (*postwissels*) and perhaps other in-house postal forms.

Apparently, no records were kept as to how many post offices received and used the imperforate sheets/stamps. Cancellations are known from these post offices: Amsterdam, Bergen, Blokzijl, Bilthoven, Boxmeer, Aalten, Borculo, Coevorden, Culemborg, Dalftsen, Egmond aan Zee, 'sGravenhage, Weesp, Zwolle, Edam and Doesburg.....there are perhaps others.

At most post offices the stamps were cut from sheets with scissors but two offices tried improvising with make-shift “perforations.” In Blokzijl (Ov.) and Bergen (N.H.) a sewing machine was used and in Bergen some sheets were rouletted. The last day of authorized use of the fur collar issues was December 31, 1935.

**Sources:**

*NVPH Speciale Catalogus* 2010.

*Handboek Postwaarden Nederland*, bldz. A9-15.

A.M. Benders. Tandingen van de ongetande 5 en 10 cent van 1923. In: *Philatelie*, September 1970, bldz. 465 & December 1970, bldz. 653.

Internet websites with the search words: *1923 workers strike at Enschedé printers.*

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