



NETHERLANDS PHILATELISTS of CALIFORNIA (now in its 45th year)

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April meeting. Attending at the 2014 WESTPEX Stamp Show meeting were: Dennis Buss, Alan R. Davis, Franklin Ennik, HansPaul Hager, Arno Kolster, Hans Kremer, Jaime Marckwordt, Paul Swierstra, Fred Van der Heyden, and guests Gary Jensen and Nick Follansbee.

AROUND THE TABLE

The April meeting was held at the **WESTPEX 2014** Stamp Show at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel, 1800 Old Bayshore Hwy, Burlingame, CA., April 25-27, 2014. NPofC reserved a meeting room for the event on Friday, April 25th and the meeting was open to all members and the public.

NPofC President HansPaul Hager gave a presentation on the invention and initiation of revenue stamps by the Governing body (or States General) of the Seven United Provinces in 1624.

The Small Stamp

By HansPaul Hager

Revenue stamps are not a recent phenomenon. The Dutch invented these stamps in 1624. The Dutch were engaged in a war of liberation with Spain and were in dire need of money to pay for this long, **80 Years War** that ran from 1568 to 1648.

A contest was issued by the Governing body of the Seven United Provinces (= States General) to find new way to tax their subjects. The prize was a pension to be awarded to the submitter of a successful idea. Johannes van den Broeck suggested a small tax on legal documents. The States General then issued a proclamation (= *plakaat*) announcing the establishment of the tax on August 13, 1624.

The States General Assembly was weary of the suggested idea and dragged their feet but the Provinces of Holland and West-Friesland quickly implemented the idea. When, after a trial period the idea turned out to work as intended, the other five provinces followed suit and in turn eventually adopted the tax method. (see footnote by J.E. Ennik)

The **May 24th meeting** will be held at the home of Hans Kremer starting at 1:00pm. Hans' telephone number is (925) 820-5841. **Note: the meeting date change.**
The **June 21st meeting** will be held at the home of Arno Kolster starting at 1:00pm. Arno's telephone number is (415) 348-1271.

't Kleyn Zegel.

1. **Placaet**, *Vande Edele Groot Mogende Heeren Staten van Hollandt ende West-Frieslandt*, daer op binnen den selven Landen gegeven sal worden het middel van 't kleyn Zegel. In date den 13 Augusti 1624.

DE Ridderſchap, Edelen ende Steden van Hollandt ende West-Frieſlant, Repreſenterende de Staten van den ſelven Lande. **DOEN TE WETEN:** Dat alſoo tot weeringe vande geweldige invaſie, die de Spaignaerden met heure Adherenten op deſe Landen voor hebbens zijn te doen, ende daer toe machtige Legers by der hant hebben alomme op de Frontieren, omme de ſelve onder heure ſlavernye ende geweld te drucken: Wy oock genootſaecht zijn geweest meerder Krijghs volck te lichten, der welker betalinge mede gevonden moet worden, ende daer omme de ooge hebben moeten ſlaen op 't vinden van nieuwe Middelen, daer uyt mette minſte ſchade vande Gemeente, penningen ſouden konnen ghevoonden werden, ende voornamentlijk op

fulcke, die dan noch de goede Ingeſetenen eenige vrucht ſouden by brengen: Ende gelet hebbende op de onſeekerheyt die uyt vele Geſchriften, ſoo Notariael als anderen, dagelijks voor valt, daer door de ſelve goede Ingeſetenen oock in vele, ende dickwils ſeer quellige Proceſſen vervallen, omme welke te ontgaen, oock eenige Nabuyt Koningen ende Potentaten, van over lange in ghevoert hebben een ordre, dat geene Acten Notariael, ofte Judiciele, en ſoude weſen van waarde, ofte dat daer op recht ghedaen ſoude mogen werden, ten ware de ſelve waren met een Zegel beveſtigt: Ordenende daer toe ſeekere Zegelen, ende ſtellende bequame ordre op 't beveſtigen voorſz. Welcke voetſtappen volgende, Wy mede gereſolveert hebben in treyn te letten 't ſelve Middel van 't Zegel,
op

Translated by J.E. Ennik as follows:

The Small Stamp

1. **Proclamation:** from the Noble, Great and Mighty Lords of the States of Holland and West Friesland (1.) by which with this order, in these Provinces, *shall be imposed the medium of the small seal (= small stamp or Kleyn Zegel).* Dated August 13, 1624.

(To) The Knighthood, Nobles and the Cities of Holland and West Friesland, representing the States of the Seven Provinces.

KNOW YOU AND DO: (or Hear Ye.....Hear Ye!!)..... To defend the intentioned, violent invasion by the powerful army of the Spanish military forces in the Provinces of Holland and West-Friesland, with their intention to conquer these Provinces, we also were necessitated to call up more soldiers.

To find the money for their pay, we looked to new means that would give the least detriment to the Community; in contrary, that this means should bring "grist to their mills." (2.) Attend to the uncertainty that takes place every day by drawing up many (different) notarial and other similar documents and the very boring processes that proceed from it. To save this, in some of the neighboring countries a long time before an order was introduced, a notarial or judicial certificate should be worthless and without validity in law, when there was missing a seal on it.

By these we decree some (of the meaned) seals and instruct how to fasten them to documents. Following these footsteps, we also made the decision to introduce the medium of the small seal. Etc.,.....Etc.,

Foot notes added by Jan E. Ennik:

- (1.) The States General (Staten Generaal) followed suite in this for the Generaliteitslanden (=remaining five Provinces) in 1635.
- (2.) “was this to influence the general public reaction?”

The diameter of the two examples shown, a 1663 8 *stuiver Clein Segel* and a 1736 48 *stuiver Clein Segel* (=small stamp), is only 35 mm. (= 1³/₄ inch).



The amount of the tax depended on the size of the document. All legal documents had to have a paper seal affixed, this seal could be bought and paid for by the Notary (to this day, in Holland a Notary is roughly the equivalent of an English Solicitor) who wrote up the document. An imprint was made by a steel press (= in Dutch **gepreegd**) into a piece of parchment, which was then glued onto the document, or more infrequently, into the document itself. **As an aside: Van den Broeck never received his pension.**

The small seal or Clein Segel =Kleyn Zegel was so called to differentiate it from the Large Seal, which had already been in use for a long time for authentication purposes of documents.

The Large Seal was a large red wax seal with the imprint of the emblem of the office of the issuer of the document and was attached to the document with a ribbon. The Large seal shown here measures 93 mm. in diameter. (= about 3 5/8 inches).

The use of these tax stamps continues in a multitude of formats to this day; every country has adopted their use.

I acknowledge with thanks the translation of the 1624 Proclamation by Jan E. Ennik, formerly director of the Drents Provincial Archive in Assen and the use of the small seal illustration of 48 stuivers.

References:

Prof. Dr. J. Van der Poel. *De geschiedenis van het Nederlands fiscaal Zegel*. Davo Uitgeverij. 1954.

Note change of meeting date: The meeting date of the May NPofC meeting at Hans Kremer's home will be May 24, 2014 rather than May 17, 2014



The Museum for Communication Exhibit of the newly issued Willem-Alexander stamps.

The Museum for Communication presents **XXS Dutch Design**. The exhibition features work by big names in the Dutch art and miniature in design. The design process of special Dutch stamps include the work of *Studio Job*, Irma Boom, Dick Bruna, Anton Corbijn, *The Design Police*, Piet Paris and Joost Swarte, and all can be seen now in the Museum in The Hague.

For many designers making a stamp is a great honor. In the Netherlands, TNT authorizes the designing of new stamps. This task is not only given to graphic designers, but also artists, illustrators, photographers, architects and artists.

The impetus for the exhibition is the design for the new royal king stamp. This stamp will have an important place in the exhibition and the design is displayed. Personal presentation of the graphic design to King Willem-Alexander was announced after Job Smeets and Nynke Tynagel of *Studio Job* have completed the design of the stamp.

In the Exhibition at the Museum for Communication there are display works by selected designers. In addition to the stamps, there are a few objects that are characteristically shown for the work of this designer, such as a fashion illustration of Piet Paris, or a picture made by Anton Corbijn. How does the stamp design of a very small size, relate to the regular work of the artist?



In addition to modern stamps, the **XXS Dutch Design** exhibition also provides an overview of the Dutch royalty stamps that have been released since 1852: from King William III to King Willem-Alexander. The stamp with the portrait of Queen Beatrix, created by Vincent Mentzel, Peter Struycken and Gerard Unger, was a clear break with previous royal postage stamps. The new royal stamp design refers to the first postage stamp of King William III in 1852.

XXS Dutch Design is open to the public until June 29, 2014 and was made in collaboration with **PostNL**. The new royal stamps depicting King Willem-Alexander are available from early 2014 at the Museum voor Communicatie, Zeestraat 82, 2518 AD, The Hague.

(Source: Translation of **Museum voor Communicatie** website notice).