

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

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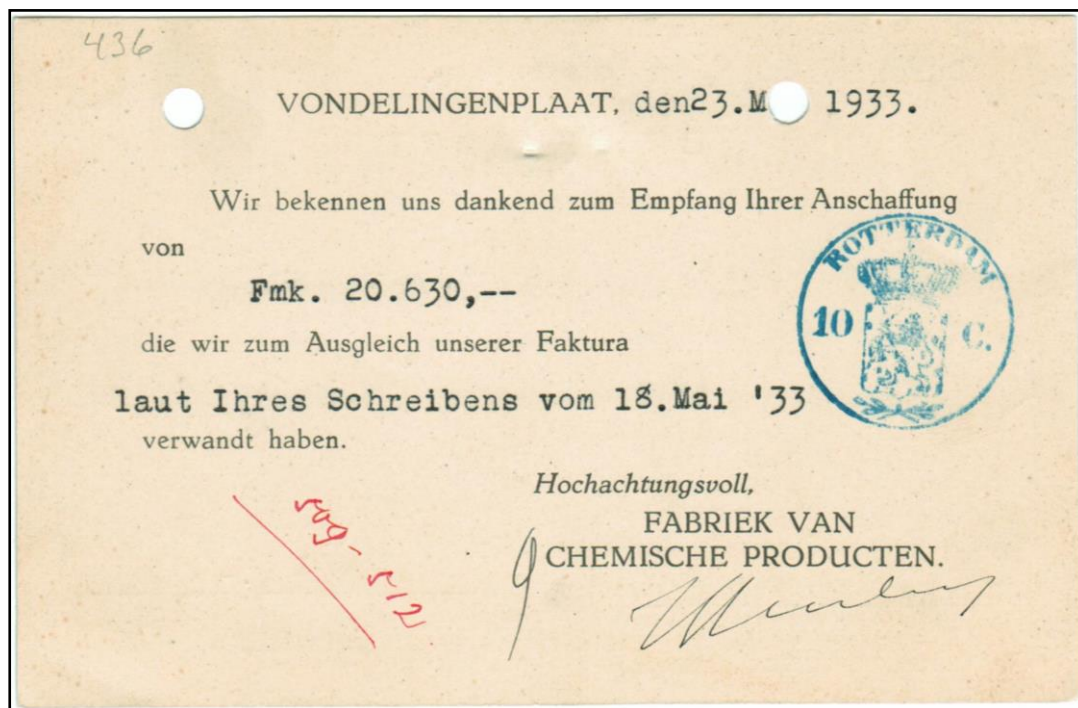
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George Vandenberg
†Ralph Van Heerden
Website: <http://www.npofc.org>

July 2014

June meeting. Attending at the home of Arno Kolster were: Dennis Buss, Franklin Ennik, HansPaul Hager, Arno Kolster and Fred Van der Heyden.

AROUND THE TABLE

Franklin Ennik passed around a post card franked 24 August 1940 with a 7½ cent 1940 Queen Wilhelmina stamp, censored by the Germans, and sent to the US. The use of royal stamps or any reference to royalty was invalidated by the Germans as of October 11, 1940. Frank also showed a postcard sent to Ekenäs, Finland 23 May 1933 acknowledging receipt of a Fmk. 20,630.00 payment for a shipment of chemical dye. The payment notice is "validated" with a "wet," 10 cent stamp applied by the Rotterdam fiscal office.



The **July 19th meeting and picnic** will be held at the home of Franklin Ennik starting at 1:00pm. Franklin's telephone number is (925)-952-9424.
The **August 16th meeting** will be held at the home of Ed Burfine starting at 1:00pm. Ed's telephone number is (650)-968-7405.

Also shown was an early post card illustrating the **secret language of the postage stamp** which conveys an extra message of endearment (or not) just by the placement angle of the stamp on the card or envelope. The development of this secret language during the early **era of the postcard** was a wide spread phenomenon starting about 1895.

The poem in the card center, translated, says in effect:

The New Secret of the Stamp

I know the secret of the stamp,
 And paste it so according to the rule,
 But its place is not important
 Even where the card comes from
 And only one thing to know, dear one,
 That the sender tenderly loves you.

Notice that the 2½ cent cijfer franking on this post card is applied upside down, with the added implied meaning: **I love you !!**



This post card also offers an added bonus for those of you who are curious.....Go to Google, type in the name of the printer of this card, **I. Frank & Cohen, Groningen**, and select the pertinent links for a long series of vintage scenes of the City of Groningen, and, some vintage New Year postcards.

Dennis Buss showed examples of the 2½ and 7½ cent cijfer denominations of the 1940 Guilloche printings and the 2½ and 7½ cent cijfer denominations of the 1941 Lebeau printings. The Dutch public took a dim view of the Guilloche over-printed issues because the design reminded them “*that the Dutch were behind bars.*” Prior to October 1940 the post card rate to



destinations outside the Netherlands was 7½ cent but was then raised to 10 cent . *Se-tenant* combinations of these two denominations were sold via vending machines and the attached 2½ cent stamp was the make-up rate stamp.



Fred Van der Heyden passed around a series of art-card brochures of the 1939 International Golden Gate Exposition; a selection of vintage post cards illustrating the aftermath of the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake, some San Francisco advertisement cards, an early Dutch post card illustrating coinage and exchange rates ca 1910; and a series of trading cards that came with match boxes.

Arno Kolster showed us a copy of the new, expanded 2nd edition of the *NVPH SpecialiteitenCatalogus 2012–2014*.

HansPaul Hager passed around **proof** examples of Dutch East Indies fiscal stamps with various colors assigned to the several stamp denominations. At first, the fiscal cost depended upon the amount of the transaction; but later the basic fiscal charge was the same for each transaction with added amounts for the size of the document and value of the transaction. The use of revenue stamps continued during the Japanese occupation and during the post-WW II Independence period. A good example of this were the Wage (or *Loonzegel*) tax stamps.

A Dutch East Indies letter sent to German nobility in 1932.

by Franklin Ennik

This letter was mailed by a Von Geyr family member 21 July 1932 from Semarang, Java and addressed to Schloss Eicks (=Castle Eicks) located near the town of Euskirchen in the SW Rhineland region of Germany.



The Wasserburg Eick castle is a baroque mansion that was occupied by a succession of Barons and Baronesses from the 15th century and has been rebuilt and expanded a number of times during its lifetime.

The feudal estate of Eick, a fief of the Counts of Virneburg, begins with Johann von Eick, early in the 14th century, with the marriage of his daughter to William of Saffenberg. The castle passed along from one owner to another through inheritance and marriage.

With the French invasion by Napoleon in 1790, the estate was plundered, and was then occupied by a lineal succession of later Barons and Baronesses. In the beginning of the 1930s the castle came into the possession of Baron Gisbert Freiherr von Geyr. His daughter, the recipient of this letter, was Baroness Mary of Gescher, who later became Baroness Mary von Geyr.

The town of Euskirchen is located in North Rhineland, Westphalia, a little SE of Aachen, Germany, not far from the border with Limburg. The region is now a focus for tourism, castles and nature parks.

The regular DEI letter-rate to Germany was 15 cent. The airmail surcharge for a letter between 5 and 10 gm was 50 cent which explains the franking of 65 cent.

The red marker *Mit Luftpost befördert / P21 Flughafen Halle/Leipzig* is a routing indication meaning "Forwarded by airmail through P21 Halle/Leipzig Airport."



The letter was flown on KLM flight # 84 from Bandung, Java on the PH-AIJ (IJsvogel). It had 261kg of mail on board. After landing in Leipzig during the morning of July 30, 1932 the plane continued on to Amsterdam, completing the nine day flight from the Dutch East Indies.

The letter received this slogan cancel upon arrival at the Halle/Leipzig airport before being forwarded likely via train on to Euskirchen. The *Benutzt die Kraftpost* slogan refers to "Use the mail car," a special vehicle to move just mail; and *Sicher, Schnell, Bequem* assures your mail is "Secure, Fast and Reliable."



I acknowledge with thanks to Hans Kremer for the flight details and translation of the German text.

References:
<http://www.wasserburgen.de/archiv/d-burg/deu/deicks.htm>

Germany's attempt to issue Occupation Stamps for the Netherlands in 1940.

By Franklin Ennik

On April 1, 1940, the Dutch Postal Authority (PTT) issued the first ten denominations (5 cent to 40 cent) of a new series of stamps bearing the portrait of Queen Wilhelmina with a design by W.A. van Konijnenburg. This new series was issued to replace the previous popular series that pictured the Queen and designed by Prof. Jan Veth in 1924.



When the invading Germans discovered the huge stockpiles of printed stamps at Enschede Printers in Haarlem in May, 1940 they confiscated the lot and sent it to Berlin. Many of the stock of perforated stamps were sold and eventually disappeared into the German philatelic market. Only a relative few of the confiscated stamps were recovered after WW II.

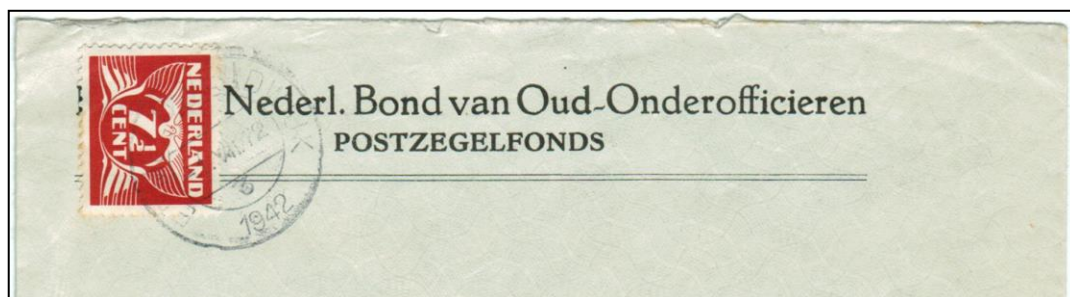
The Germans had experience in plundering the postal stocks of the countries that they had already overrun or annexed: Austria and Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia in 1938 and Poland in 1939. The occupiers then issued overprinted stamps with German occupation slogans.

In August 1940, a new debate began between the newly appointed German administrator of the PTT, the German appointed Reich's Commissioner of the Netherlands and the Reich's Postal Ministry in Berlin. The discussion centered on what to do with the purloined Dutch stamps. A proposal was made to overprint the confiscated Dutch stamps with the words, *Deutsche Besetzung*, or German Occupation. There was a consideration that the same overprint would also be applied on the confiscated stocks of French, Belgian and (?)Luxembourg stamps.

It was pointed out that this decision was a political matter, not a postal matter. After some discussion, the Reich's Postal Ministry issued trial overprint essays on various Dutch stamps with **Deutsche Besetzung** and the **Wehrmacht eagle**, including several denominations of the Konijnenburg Queen Wilhelmina stamps and several cijfers of the Lebeau designs. *See next page.*

After examining the essays the decision was made to withdraw the Konijnenburg Queen designs from public use and replace them with the more neutral Lebeau pigeon designs (without overprints) and that this should happen immediately. It was further pointed out that there would likely be a very emotional reaction by the Dutch public if they had to use stamps imprinted with *Deutsche Besetzung* for their postage and as a result this would become an *added problem* for the occupying Germans.

The scheme to overprint the confiscated stamps was subsequently dropped. Use of the new Konijnenburg stamps for postage was valid up to October 11, 1940 when the German high command officially declared that any further use of the royal image stamps and any reference to royalty was now invalid and had to be obliterated. Use of the Konijnenburg designed stamps resumed after the Netherlands was liberated. *See next page.* Notice that the sender of the shown envelope fragment (mailed 1942) has covered up the word **Kon**(inklijk) (=royal) of **Kon. Nederl. Bond van Oud-Onderofficieren** with the 7½ cent franking stamp. The "Postzegelfonds" collected used stamps which were sold in bulk as a fund raiser. *Note:* Any correspondence addressed to "**Koninklijk**" organizations or state infrastructure with "**Koninklijk**" had to be crossed out and replaced with "**National.**"



Sources of Information:

Gert Holstege en Jan Vellekoop. Achtergronden van de Nederlandse postzegel productie tijdens de Duitse besetting in de Tweede Wereldoorlog. *Filatelie Informatief* Sectie 7533.

NVPH Speciale Catalogus 2010. Bldz. 67.